

IN THE TABLOID: **6 PAGES ON FILMS**



A PROFESSOR FAILS THE GRAMMAR TEST



WEATHER: showers

(MR45p) 40p

NEWS PAGE 3

THE BEATLES PLAY THE PROMS

Blair stalls on open government

Plan for Freedom of Information Bill is delayed

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

High hopes that Tony Blair would fulfil his pledge to enact Preedom of Information legislation in his first parliamentary session were dashed yesterday, after ministers were told that it was not possible to draft a Bill

The pretext was privately denounced by Labour MPs last night. One said: "This smacks of Yes Minister." A constitutional expert said: "The more they delay, the more the beauties of closed government will become

Mr Blair told an inaugural

blairs britain

The new Government in full, page 6

Tory pact, page 8 Cook hailed, page 12 BP boss joins team,

page 20 Leading article, page 17

Letters, page 17

chaos

 $\sim n e^{-\Lambda}$

the "highest standards in publie life" would be demanded of

Polly Toynbee, page 19

He also said: "The people will not forgive us if we go back on our promises. But already, less than a week into government, we are beginning to make a difference. We have started with

That energetic beginning continued yesterday with the ap-

pointment of Sir David Simon, chairman of BP, as new Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe, with a life peerage to come. BP has been under attack for alleged human

rights abuses in South America. In other moves, Stephen Byers, Education Minister, ordered an urgent report into failing schools, Tessa Jowell, Minister for Public Health, said tobacco advertising would be banned within weeks, and early action was promised to "clean up" donations political parties.

But the high-priority expected for open government and freedom of information was met with less enthusiasm by the Whitehall machine.

The Independent had been told that a Freedom of Information Bill would be included in Labour's first-year programme because it was a lowcost signal of new Labour politics in action.

However, civil servants are said to have advised new ministers this week that legislation would take time to prepare, and it would be much better to offer a White Paper, outlining plans that would be enacted in 1999.

That advice was followed, and approved, at a meeting vesterday of the new Cabinet's legislation committee, chaired by Lord Irvine of Lairg, the new Lord Chancellor.

Though today's first full Labour Party yesterday that meeting of the Cabinet could theoretically overturn that dian. there was little hope of that happening last night.

Rather, there was strong suspicion around Whitehall that civil servants had won their first coup, with the backing of key ministers, possibly including Peter Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio, who are thought to be less enthusiastic about open government than Mr Blair. It



Sermon in the round: Tony Blair addressing Labour MPs yesterday in the Church of England's Grand Assembly Hall, London

enactment of the pledge on freedom of information.

Maurice Frankel, director of the Campaign for Freedom of Information, said last night: "The longer they wait, the more diluted it could well become." That is what happened in the 1974-79 Parliament after Labour had pledged, in its October 1974 manifesto, to "re-

withholding information." After protracted delay, the pledge

was not fulfilled. Mr Frankel said that the last attempt at backbench legislation on open government, spon-sored by Mark Fisher, now Arts Minister, was debated for 21 hours in 1993, and it was absurd to suggest that there had been no legislative preparaplace the Official Secrets Act by tion. "They could produce a Bill

a iudicial body.

line of prisoners in front of the

Serbian orthodox church in

Kozarac and killed them by slit-

ting their throats and stabbing

He was cleared of a cruel and

inhumane sexual act - forcing

a Muslim prisoner to chew off

will be sentenced at a further

hearing on 1 July, giving De-

fence lawyers 30 days to appeal,

Tadic to trial at all was the main

achievement. The alleged

crimes took place during a

chaotic civil war and the pros-

ecution could not prove that the

accused was linked to any of the

murders, or, indeed, that indi-

But there will be disap-

Legal experts said getting

them several times.

was being argued that there were a measure to put the burden on in a matter of weeks if they another three or four years for the public authorities to justify wanted," he said.

The latest decision to delay was all the more surprising because Mr Blair's commitment could not have been stronger when he was guest speaker at the Campaign for Freedom of Information's . awards

ceremony last year. Arguing for a decentralisation of power, he said: "People often say to me today, Every-

"I actually believe that if we want to make government effective in the modern world, it simply is not possible to do that on the basis of government just handing down tablets of stone.

"In fact, you can see, in my view, both with Scott [report on arms to Iraq and BSE, it would have been far better if government had been more open, far one says this before they get into better actually for the proper

Mr Blair continued: "Our commitment to a Freedom of Information Act is clear, and I reaffirm it here tonight." Ministerial opponents of the

change are worried that if a Freedom of Information Act is put through, then Labour would be making a rod for its own

Paddy Ashdown, leader of the Liberal Democrats, yester-

Photograph: Andrew Buurman would be no "knee-jerk oppo

sition for its own sake". He offered constructive opposition when the Government pursued aims supported by his party like open government.

Parliament met for the first time yesterday, and Betty Boothroyd was re-elected as Speaker. MPs begin the lengthy process of swearing-in today. The Queen's Speech will be delivered at next Wednesday's day told his 46 MPs that there state opening of Parliament.

Vaccine against meningitis may soon be available

Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

A vaccination giving lifelong protection against bacterial meningitis, one of the most threatening infections of modern times, could be available within a decade, scientists said yesterday.

Trials of new vaccines are showing promising results against the disease which attacks unpredictably, with unnerving speed and ferocity. There are 2,000 cases of meningitis a year, mainly in babies and young children, with 150 to 200 deaths.

. The trials, carried out by the government's Public Health Laboratory Service, with back-ing from the health department, are testing vaccines against the two commonest strains of bacterial meningitis, B and C. The results were presented yesterday to a meeting of 400 expens at a national conference on menin-

gitis in London.

Laboratory Service in the South-west and a co-ordinator of the trials, said the findings were "very exciting".

One study carried out on 100 children in Gloucester, which was the focus of a major outbreak of meningitis in the mid-1980s, was the first in the world to demonstrate that a vaccine against the group B strain successfully provides protection in babies aged under one year, he said. The unpublished study showed the effect was modest but it indicated that scientists

were on the right track. Two other trials of vaccines against the group C strain, tested on babies aged two to four months, had shown they were both safe and effective.

Dr Cartwright said: "My guess is that we will have a vaccination against the group B strain of the disease within 10 years. I expect we will have to keep re-formulating it to keep Dr Keith Cartwright, group up with changes in the strain.

GRICKTA

Mobutu leaves Zaire Zaire's ailing President, Mobutu Sese Seko, left his capital for a two-day crisis summit in Gabon, leaving friends and enemies to wonder if he will ever return. Rebel leader Laurent Kabila now commands most of

Pecking order

The BBC is moving its Panoramove to 10pm on Mondays, while its current 9.30 slot will be replaced by a new Birds of a

ma programme to a later slot to sitcom. From 2 June it will Page 15 | Feather series.

make way for a ratings-boosting | 1y ago, and the first by a tribunal

and impartial. Page 3 in the Second World War. It was pointment that of 74 people

Bosnian Serb found guilty of war crimes

Christopher Bellamy Defence Correspondent

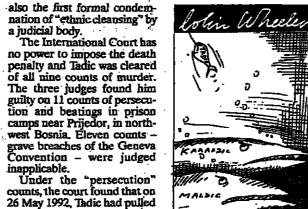
In the first such conviction since the Second World War, a man has been found guilty of war crimes committed during the Bosnian war. Dusan Tadic, a Bosnian Serb

reserve policeman, was found guilty on 11 out of 31 counts by the International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague yester-. He was cleared on nine for-

mal counts of murder, but nevertheless found guilty of killing two Bosnian Muslim policemen on counts of "persecution". and of taking part in the murder of more than 30 people which Judge Louise Arbour, the Chief Prosecutor, said was worse, as it was, in effect, "murder with a discriminating

Tadic, 41, had pleaded innocent to all the charges. He another prisoner's testicle. Tadic heard the verdict of the International Court behind bulletproof glass in Trial Chamber II. It is the first conviction for war crimes by a multi-national court since the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials sent 17 Axis leaders to the gallows half a centuwhich was both international

The earlier war crimes trials vidual murders had taken place. were carried out by the victors



two Muslim policemen from a

eight, including Tadic, have so far been detained. Martin Bell, the new Independent MP for Tatton and a former BBC war correspondent, condemned the "failure" of the international community to bring war criminals to jus-

"I think it reminds us of the relative failure of the system so far," he told BBC Radio 4's The World At One programme. "Seven of the charged are in custody, only one a major figure, and he gave himself up. The rest of the 74 are still at large — I think the figures speak for themselves." The others include the lead-

effort, Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, who are still in Serb controlled territory. The US-based group Human Right Watch said in a statement: The international

effort to achieve justice will ultimately depend not on the tri-al of subordinate actors like Dusan Tadic, but on the arrest of the accused masterminds of the Bosnian genocide, in particular Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic."
The group urged President
Bill Clinton and other leaders

to "summon the political courage to ensure that Nato troops arrest and surrender indictees." If they don't, "this first effort at an international system of justice since Nuremberg and

Tokyo wili fail." The Serbian and Bosnian Serb authorities have shown no signs of extraditing anyone to the United Nations court, and Tadic's acquittal on all nine counts of murder because of lack of evidence suggests that the tribunal will find it very difficult to convict others on the most serious charges.

The Foreign Office said the verdict marked "a further step in bringing to justice those responsible for crimes against

It added that the United Kingdom wanted to see "all those responsible for war crimes

ers of the Bosnian Serb war brought to trial in The Hague". Film4-9 Graduate Plus13





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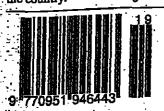
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significant shorts

Blair and Bruton in talks to avert Ulster marching crisis

In their first meeting as premiers, the Taoiseach John Bruton will

In their first meeting as premiers, the Taoiseach John Bruton will today urge Tony Blair to move urgently to avert a repetition of last summer's disturbances arising from Ulster marching season.

Mr Bruton's visit will be the first by a foreign head of government since Mr Blair's arrival at Downing Street. Dublin sources said Mr Bruton would urge Mr Blair to act on key recommendations of the North report on contentious parades to recommendations of the North report on contentious parades to prevent Drumcree-type unrest erupting for the third year in succession. The meeting follows discussions in London last night between the new Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam, and Irish foreign minister Dick Spring.

The two premiers will also analyse the prospects for a renewed IRA ceaselire and confidence-building measures to encourage the resumption of multi-party talks next month in the wake of the success of two Sinn Fein candidates. Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness in last week's general election.

McGuinness in last week's general election.

In a speech last night to the Oxford Union, Mr Bruton promised that if Republicans 'make good their promise to take the political road, the two governments will receive them at the gates of Stormont Buildings into inclusive talks where no topic is excluded". But he warned that an attempt to "half-suspend" violence or to "combine syntax and semtex" would not see Dublin hold up talks until Sinn Fein and the IRA were ready to declare a final ceasefire. Alan Murdoch - Dublin

Hunt for missing boys scaled down

The grandfather of a schoolboy drowned off the Lincolnshire coast at the weekend vowed yesterday to keep searching for his



grandson's two friends who are still missing. James Scott spoke after an inquest into the death of his 11-year-old grandson, Christopher Scott (pictured), was opened and adjourned. Mr Scott said helping with the search was "just something I have got to do. I still live in this community and although I have had a tragedy myself I have got to do my bit". Christopher had been on a bicycle ride with Nathan Sawyer, aged nine, and Ian Smye, 10. It is almost certain that they are dead and police yesterday began scaling down the hunt for them. **Matthew Brace**

Andrew Neil to edit 'European'

Andrew Neil, former editor of the Sunday Times, has taken over

the reins of the European newspaper.

In January, 47-year-old Mr Neil became editor-in-chief of European Press Holdings, the company which owns and publishes the European, Scotsman, Scotland on Sunday and the Edinburgh

Mr Neil has assumed day-to-day control of the European from next week's issue following the departure of the editor. Charles Garside, who has left the company to pursue other interests. He has said in the past he would like to see the weekly pan-European newspaper become like the *Economist* 'with glamour'.

Theatre gets £5.9m lottery grant

A grant of £5.9m to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre is among 54 projects to benefit from the latest £14m lottery bandouts for the arts, announced today. The second largest grant is £3.7m to the Hanover Band Trust in Hove, Sussex, towards buying and refurbishing the Old Market buildings in the town. The Tricycle Theatre in north west London gets £2m to develop its site.

Dissenters at peace after rescue

The dead beneath the Dissenters' Chapel in Kensal Green Cemetery, north-west London, may rest in peace again. The builders have gone and so have the heritage guardians who yesterday celebrated the success of a remarkable £525,000 rescue project. Built by the General Cemeters use of religious conformists, the Grade II*-listed chapel fell into decay after the Second World War and in 1991 was designated by English Heritage as a "building at risk".

The two-year project was funded by English Heritage, the Historic Chapels Trust. North Kensington City Challenge and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Stephen Goodwin

Harold Best: An apology

In an article in last Friday's edition we incorrectly stated that Harold Best, the new Labour MP for Leeds North, had been a member of the Communist party. We accept that Mr Best has never been a member of the Communist party and are happy to set

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Pulling power: Fifth Element director Luc Besson with actress Milla Jovovich (Photograph: Brian Harris)

Fists fly as the film world gets festive at Cannes

he 50th Cannes Festival began yesterday just as the scriptwriter ordered - with fists flying as photographers jostled to snap Bruce Willis, the star of the opening film, The Fifth Element.

Meanwhile, new arrivals in town gazed with astonishment at the blue bubble shaped object parked by the harbour - not, as it happens, a passing spaceship, but the venue for last night's opening party.

Cannes has seldom been associated with good taste, but even by its own sub-Babylonian standards, the vast mural which hangs over the entrance to the Palais Du. Cinema is a shocker - two gigantic golden palms either side of a red stairway on which stand various sticklike luminaries in evening dress, apparently famous figures from festivals past, but all so indistinctly drawn

The image of the golden palm is all over town. It hangs from hundreds of red pennants along the main thoroughtare, the Croisette. It is stencilled into the pavement. It is in every shop window. There are already reports of memento hunters shimmying up flagpoles in an attempt to purion the pennants.

The little seaside town has now undergone its usuall opening day metamorphosis into mini-police state. The Croisette is cordoned off. Gendarmes stand at

every comer, checking press passes. In the back streets, rich old ladies, out walking their

poodles, scowl at the strangers who've descended on their home town in record numbers.

Despite festival director Gilles Jacob's assertions to the contrary, Cannes is simply a celebration of the art of cinema. It's one of the film world's biggest markets and it is also an opportunity for tourists, journalists and photographers to gawp at stars and starlets.

As expected, there is more glitter than ever this year Michael Jackson is due in town tonight for a midnight screening of his 40-minute spectacular, Ghosts. The Spice Girls arrive tomorrow to promote their forthcoming film and, no doubt, show off their Union Jack

Johnny Depp will be on the Croisette, promoting his directorial debut, The Brave, in which Marlon Brando co-stars. It is a dark film with a dark history. In late 1993, Aziz Ghazal, the director originally pencilled in to-make the movie killed his ex-wife and daughter before shooting himself.

It is too early to predict where this year's prizes will be going, but the buzz surrounding the two British films in competition, Michael Winterbottom's Welcome To-Sarajevo and Gary Oldman's South London psy-chodrama, Nil By Mouth, suggests that the prospects of a second consecutive Palme D'Or (after Secrets and Lies last year) aren't as far-fetched as they first seemed.

Geoffrey Macnab

Millionaires fight for place in the sun

A British businessman leading a super-rich group battling to avoid being thrown off a Caribbean island vowed yesterday to stay put until the fight was won.

Several millionaires, including supermarket giants Lord and Lady Sainsbury, as well as author Ken Follett and his wife Barbara (right), the new Labour MP, own exclusive retreats at Jumby Bay, off the coast of Antigua.

Their homes, which they bought from American owners Arawak for more than £1m, depend on the island's hotel for their fresh water and electricity. And Arawak wants to close the 39-bedroom hotel, where rooms cost up to £1,700 a

night, because it is unprofitable. Members of the Jumby Bay Club, to which the home owners belong, say the owners have a contractual duty to provide them with facilities.

The case was yesterday taken to the Antiguan High Court in St John's, where the residents are opposing the closure plan.

Mr Justice Kenneth Benjamin granted them a temporary injunction requiring the firm to keep the resort open until a final judgment, expected next Monday. The British businessman leading



said afterwards: "We are confident of victory and were heartened by the decision." He said only three people were left on the island nimself, wife Patricia and neighbour Roland Franklin, a former lieutenant of Sir James Goldsmith. "Most people have left because the situation is so unsure but we are going to stay put," said Mr Swann.

The home owners, who paid up to £47,000 for Jumby Club membership on top of the £1m cost of building plots, are applying for a receiver to manage the hotel.

Mr Swann argued the resort was not running at a loss and that the owners had a hidden motive for shutting it down - such as forcing out the club members before opening up again with more power

Peking jails abbot over reincarnation of Tibetan lama

It is almost exactly two years since the exiled Dalai Lama infuriated Peking by anointing six-year-old Gendun Choekyi Nyima as the reincamation of the Panchen Lama, the second holiest figure in

the Tibetan religious hierarchy. The little boy and his parents have not been seen since, after being taken into "safe custody" by the Chinese, who subsequently chose Gyaincin Norbu, 6, as the 11th Panchen Lama. He is now undergoing intensive training at Tashilhunpo, central Tibet, under Peking-appointed tutor monks. Nor, until yesterday, had there

been official news about the man in charge of Peking's search for the Lama - Chadrel Rinpoche, then acting abbot at Tashilhunpo. He was detained in May 1995, days after the Dalai Lama named Gendun.

Only now has the Xinhua news agency announced that, at a secret trial last month, Chadrel Rinpoche was sentenced to six years in jail for allegedly passing information on Peking's search to the Dalai Lama. Two of the abbot's aides were also jailed; Xinhua said the three had "committed the crime of splitting the country". Most Tibetans believe Gedhun is the true reincarnation.

Strong pound deterring **European visitors**

Currency differences are stemming the flow of European tourists to Britain, it was revealed yesterday.

The strong pound meant the number of Western European visitors to the UK in the first two months of 1997 fell 5 per cent compared with January-February 1996.

compared with January-February 1996.

The dip, after many months of increases, meant the total number of overseas visitors fell slightly from just over 3 million in January-February 1996 to 2.99 million, according to the Office for National Statistics. "The pound's strength has had some effect. Short-break business has clearly been affected by fluctuations in exchange rates," said a British Tourist Authority spokeswoman. However, the number of North American visitors – traditionally the biggest spenders – rose 11 per cent in the first two months of the biggest spenders - rose 11 per cent in the first two months of the year to around 480,000. This helped bring total overseas visitor spending to about £1.39bn, roughly the same as in 1996.

HEALTH

'Delhi belly' blight for holidaymakers

Holidaymakers are still falling foul of "Delhi belly" and other similarly named exotic ailments on their travels, according to a Consumers' Association survey yesterday.

Apart from China, India is the destination where tourists are Apart from China, India is the destination where tourists are most likely to be ill, Holiday Which? magazine found. The survey of more than 20,000 readers showed that 38 per cent of visitors to China and 35 per cent of those who go to India became unwell, mainly with stomach problems. The next most risky destinations were Egypt, Morocco and Turkey where 32 per cent of visitors fell ill, followed by Indonesia (31 per cent), Kenya, Mexico and Theiland (all 27 per cent) Places where former records suffered Thailand (all 27 per cent). Places where fewest people suffered sickness were Denmark and Corsica (2 per cent), followed by Hungary, Finland and Slovenia (3 per cent).



SCIENCE

Progress on anti-cancer vaccine

Scientists have synthesised a potential anti-cancer vaccine by assembling a carbohydrate molecule from chemical "building

Cells of many tumours have distinctive antigens – proteins that trigger an immune reaction – on their surfaces. It has long been known that these antigens could be used therapeutically as anti-cancer vaccines. But isolating them in usefully large quantities is difficult. Now a team from the Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research in New York believe they may have created an artificial anti-cancer vaccine. The science journal Nature, which published the research, said: "Synthetic cell-free KH-1 antigen could be used as a harmless, cell-free way to prime the immune system against tumours, in the same way that vaccination with a viral or bacterial protein fragment can protect against infectious disease."

Galactic halo springs surprise

Astronomers have been left perplexed by observations of a dark matter "halo" around another galaxy that has deepened one of the universe's biggest mysteries.

Astronomers have recently detected substantial haloes of dark matter around galaxies, which signify their presence by the gravitational effect they have on visible stars and gas embedded within them. But a study of one of these haloes yielded a surprise, according to a report in the science journal Nature. A team of researchers at the Space and Environment Technology Center, Los. Angeles, found that the spectra, or light wavelengths, of nearinfrared emissions from the halo indicated "a very peculiar spectral" energy distribution, which cannot be explained by any current models of stellar populations". The halo appeared to be populated with relatively young stars as well as a large number of low-mass stars - the opposite of what would have been expected.

Concern over eye surgery benefits

One in six people having laser treatment to correct short sight fails to gain normal vision as a result of the operation, experts say.

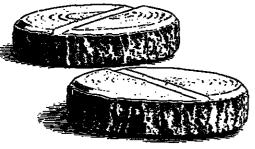
Studies show 15 per cent of patients still have to wear glasses after the operation and 3-4 per cent suffer more serious side effects. Demand for laser eye surgery has grown as the price has fallen

from around £1.500 per eye two years ago to under £400 today. About 10,000 people in Britain are expected to undergo the treatment this year. An investigation for the Channel 4 series, Health Alen, to be shown tonight, found no eye surgeon in Britain who had undergone the procedure.



NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

Effective treatment for the greenhouse effect.

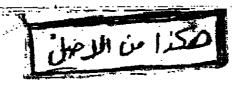


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With a little help from the Proms, Beatles join the classical repertoire

Arts News Editor

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المنشر المناسية المرزاد

The Beatles can now officially be considered as classical music. But Andrew Lloyd Webber cata not.

This year songs by John Lennon and Paul McCartney will be sung at the Proms for the first time. And yesterday the Proms director, Nicholas Kenyon, who is also head of BBC Radio 3, said he had made the decision to include Lennon and McCartney at classical music's premier international festival in an attempt to broaden the classical repertory.

But in a surprising put-down of Lord Lloyd-Webber, Mr Kenyon said he believed the most commercially successful composer in the world still had "a little way to go" before entering the repertory. However, the late Frank Zappa, a former wild man of rock, will have mu-

sid featured at this year's Proms. Lord Lloyd-Webber, who has long considered himself a composer of opera, reacted diplomatically to Mr Kenyon's remarks last night.

He said: "I'm a great supporter of the Proms since havng first visited the Proms when I was three years old, when taken by my father, who was the director of the Royal College of Music across the road. And I music would be performed

Mr Kenyon said of this year's programme: "Lennon and Me-Cartney's songs are now the classics of our day because they have survived absolutely contiquously as music that people listen to, respond to and love. and have done for over 30

"In their way they have established themselves as as sigmificant as any other composer of their era. They speak to people just as much as the classical composers of the Sixties,

Singers at a Prom in July.

the repertory, a composition by Zappa will be played.

Also at the lighter end of the spectrum there is a celebration concert for John Dankworth

establishment's embrace is not being offered to all Britain's world-famous popular composers. Mr Kenyon said that Lord Lloyd Webber did not come under the classical umbrella, and he could not foresee his music being played at the

"I think Lloyd Webber's got would be thrilled if one day my a little way to go, said Mr Kenyon, "before he establishes himself as someone whose music has permanently entered the

Available this year is a special CD with music choices from celebrities including the tennis star Tim Henman and the

Berio and Boulez."

He added: "Lennon and Mc-Cartney can be compared with Gershwin. I wouldn't be surprised if people questioned my iudgement but we are robust about this. It is music that a Proms audience will respond to. I want to show that the repertory can broaden itself and re-

Beatles songs including "Pen-ny Lane", "Eleanor Rigby", "I'll Follow the Sun" and "Honey Pie" will be sung by the King's And in a further widening of

Excerpts from Zappa's "The Yellow Shark" will also be heard

ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER

actor Bob Hoskins.

Mr Kenyon said: "The CD is intended to encourage those less familiar with classical music to give the Proms a try." The CD is presented by the sports pre-

at the Royal Albert Hall on Sunday 20 July.

and Cleo Laine. However, the classical music

He ceases to be classical each time his private jet lands at Heathrow. His work counts as classical in America and Ireland, but not in Britain. His music is being played at this vear's Insh Proms. His Requiem won him an American award as best classical contemporary musician. He classes his musicals as operas.

sical composers, including works by Chopin, Bartok and Brahms. There will also be works by Benjamin Britten.

The series of daily concerts will run from Friday 18 July to Saturday 13 September. For the first time there will be afternoon repeats of many of the



MIKE OLDFIELD 1973 hit Tubular Bells is up

The late Leonard Bernstein, composer of West Side Story, defined it as the only music where the composer alone determines the nature of every note that is



MICHAEL NYMAN

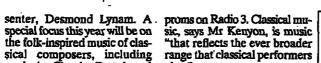
pop music.

on the edges of classical

Masterpiece or Muzak: how do they score?



By Leonard Bernstein's definition, the composer of the there with Brahms and Beethoven. From glockenspiel to the "two slightly distorted guitars" announced on the album, Oldfield also played all



Leading article, page 17



GEORGE GERSHWIN The composer of the score for Porgy and Bess has been perthe film The Piano is hovering formed at Glyndebourne and the Royal Opera House. But an even better tribute to his classirecognition. However, he has one claim to eligibility that neical status came from Ravel ther Kenyon nor Bernstein when Gershwin asked him for noted in their definitions. His music lessons in Paris. "How compositions deal with death much do you earn?" asked a defining aspect of classical Ravel. Gershwin told him. "I music, and almost never of should be taking lessons from you," Ravel replied.



MARIANNE FAITHFULL She complained officially to chart compilers that her recording of Kurt Well cabaret songs was excluded from the classical charts. A classical crossover chart has now been established to accommodate her and similar anomalies. But participation in the 1968 Rolling Stones Rock'n'Roll Circus rules her out of full classical status.



THE SPICE GIRLS Mr Kenyon might expect promenaders to boogie to Frank Zappa, but Mel B and chums leave him cold. "The Spice Girls have a mountain to climb before they show they have the staying power," he says. Their musical response is likely to be either a broadening of their repertoire or a head butt for the Proms director.

Birds of a Feather knock Panorama off its perch

Media Correspondent

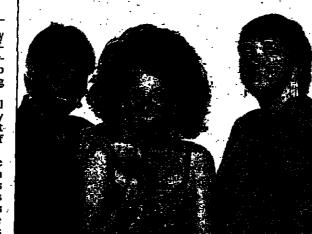
The BBC is courting controversy by moving its flagship current affairs programme Panonima permanently to a later time to make way for a ratings-boosting situation comedy. From 2 June, Panorama will

move to 10pm on Monday nights while its current 9.30 slot is replaced by a new series of Birds of a Feather. The BBC denied that the move signals a downgrading in its commitment to current affairs and but it does admit that it has

been losing the battle for ratings on a Monday nights. It claims the move should boost Panorama's ratings as well as the whole channel's evening's audience.

Mark Thompson, acting controller of BBC 1, said: "We want to strengthen and broaden BBC 1's Monday-night line-up. Panorania has a well-earned reputation for powerful and highly relevant journalism. Both it and

benefit from these changes."



Flying high: Linda Robson, Lesley Joseph and Pauline Quirke

running for 44 years, has been the centre of a controversy about in its present 9.30 slot for 12 the importance of current affairs years. Its average viewing figures last year were 4.3 million. The BBC claims that Panorama already gets 1 million extra viewers from TTV for the last ten minutes of Panorama when the Nine O'clock News should News at Ten starts. Panorama, which has been

the importance of current affairs in an increasingly competitive broadcasting environment.

John Major, the then prime minister, intervened in 1993 to prevent ITV from moving News at Ten to an earlier slot. ITV still wants to move the programme

highly rating movies without being interrupted by the news. ITV now drops its documentary strand World in Action during summer months and has virtually committed the programme to a ratings graveyard by putting it up against EastEnders at 8pm rather than in a later, more valuable, slot.

Situation comedies are increasingly moving into more "serious" time slots after 9pm. Men Behaving Badly succeeded in this slot while factual programmes like Inside Story, Crimewatch UK and QED have been moved to 10pm over recent years.

"Other factual programmes have done well when they have moved to this time," said Steve Hewlett, editor of Panorama.

The programme has already tried to boost its ratings by moving away from long studio discussions and the so-called Birtian analysis, to more human stories. One report last year attracted headlines by presenting research that working mothers were harming their chikiren's ed-News at Ten itself has been at so that it can run the more ucation by not staying at home,



Hedgehog barbeque leaves sour taste

Animal-welfare campaigners are feeling prickly about the effort to revive the delicacy.

But if the Hedgehog Preserfestival arranged by Gypsies. For £12.50 members of the public are invited to the open-air Romany barbeque, where they can savour the gourmet Gypsy recipe for roast hedgehog marmated in honey.

Gypsy leader Bartley Cormanifears the traditional Gypsy dish has fallen by the wayside and is selling tickets for the clay-purposefully killing a native

<u>kang ng</u> sanggapagan ang kang ang ang

baked furze-pig festival, which is being held at Uttoxeter, Staffordshire, on 5 July, in an

But if the Hedgehog Preservation Society has its way, Mr Gorman will fail to get the

event off the ground.

Adrian Cole, founder of the society, is launching a cam-paign, backed by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, to ban the barbeque. "It is disgusting and deplorable that human beings will stoop so low as to go around

wild animal like the hedge-hog," he said yesterday. "They are on the decline already thanks to man grubbing up all their hedges and building motorways and other things over their natural habitats."

Elaine Drewery, who runs a hedgebog sanctuary from the village post office in Authorpe, near Louth, Lincolnshire, said: "It's ... tragic that the £12.50 they are charging to eat barbecued hedgehogs is what it costs ns on average to treat injured hedgehogs in our wildlife hos-

pital and return them, fully re-stored, to the wild, sometimes after months of treatment."

Mr Gorman, a former bareknuckle fighter from Wood Lane, Uttoxeter, retorted: What about all the rabbits and pigeons that find their way on to our tables, even in restau-

"I don't see why there should be so much fuss, particularly when you see hundreds of hedgehogs killed on our roads every year and no one bats an eyelid."

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Fertility fears over tin can chemical

Nick Schoon Erussels

A mass-produced chemical which lines the inside of tin cans can harm male babies as they develop in the womb, an embryologist told a conference souri, said his studies on mice

The chemical, called bisphenol A, is one of 60 known "genwhich a growing number of sci-entists believe are affecting wildlife and humans, causing ill-

ness and putting fertility at risk. Professor Frederick vom Saal, of the University of Misand on human cells kept alive in test tubes had convinced him the intake of bisphenol A der-bender" substances - that people received in a nor-chemicals which can mimic nat-

trally-occurring hormones and developing male embryos.

which a growing number of sci
He found that when very low concentrations were given to pregnant mice, their male young had a permanently enlarged prostate gland and a 20 per cent drop in sperm counts when they matured. His laboratory and three others had also demonstrated that the chemical caused hormonal response in cul-

tured human breast tissue cells.

In the foetus, the great ma-

jority of naturally-occurring oe-strogen molecules circulating in the blood are attached to proteins and as such are unable to enter cells. But, said Professor vom Saal, "We found that bisphenol can bypass this barrier system.

He pointed out that the prostate gland sighted just beyond the bladder, was "the most diseased organ in the human body" with most elderly men experiencing some prob-lems. Anything affecting the embryo which enlarged the developing prostate more then normal should be avoided, he

"We now have an animal study which shows that at the level found in our food, bisphenol A will have an impact on the male foetus ... it has to be perceived as a potential risk, especially to pregnant and breast

As well as being used in can

linings, the chemical is a building block in a common plastic, lycarbonate, found in compact discs. It is also used as a sealant in dentistry. Professor vom Saal attacked some chemicals and manufacturing companies for refusing to tell health researchers what chemicals they use in their plastics. "Tupper-

feeding women and their ware told me we do not release terfere with hormone systems babies." he said.

ware told me we do not release terfere with hormone systems this information to the public." during the embryonic develop-He was one of several scientists talking to a conference organised by the Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment and the Worldwide Fund For Nature. It

was attended by MEPs and parliamentarians from several continents but no British MPs. Many environmentalists see synthetic chemicals which in-

ment of humans and animal species as a major green issue which will come to rival global

warming in importance. They believe the substances are to blame for rising rates of testicular cancer, falling sperin counts and an increase of

cases of malformed, under-

Bridgewater convictions were unsafe

None of convictions for which substantial impact on the casthe Bridgewater Four were es of the other three such as we jailed was safe, the prosecution admitted vesterday.

Jeremy Roberts OC, for the Crown, told the Court of Appeal that its approach to the case had been completely alidence on 6 February this year which showed that police had forged one of the confessions.

Michael Hickey, 35, his cousin Vincent Hickey, 42, and James Robinson, 63, spent 18 years in prison after being jailed for life for the murder of 13year-old Carl Bridgewater at Yew Tree Farm, near Stourbridge, West Midlands. A fourth man, Patrick Molloy, died in jail in 1981 while serving a 12-year sentence for manslaughter.

Mr Roberts said that "it could now be seen" that Mr Molloy was tricked into making a confession statement by being shown a forged document purporting to be a statement signed by Vincent Hickey. In these circumstances Mr Molloy's confession statement and later confessions were inadmissible in evidence against him."

He said all the confessions were "tainted by the continuing trick played upon him".

Without Mr Molloy's confession there was no case against him. If what is now known had been known at the time. Mr Molloy would not have been in the dock at all. The trick practised on Mr Molloy must have had a very

cannot invite the court to treat their convictions as safe."

Mr Roberts said that where the conviction of one defendant has been "improperly obcase had been completely al-tered by the finding of fresh ev-quence" must be that the convictions of co-defendants must be quashed as well.

He said the evidence obtained by the deception of Mr Molloy "must have had a powerful prejudicial affect" on the other three "so that we cannot properly submit that the jury would have convicted them".

"If the truth about the trick had been known in 1979," none of the confession evidence would have been put before the court and Mr Molloy would not have been in the dock.

In 1990, the comparatively new ESDA technique for forensic analysis of documents was used to test Mr Molloy's confession statement. Impressions were found of a statement apparently made earlier on paper which would have been lying on top of the paper used for the Molloy confession. The impressions were of handwriting bearing the name and signature of Vincent Hickey. The signature was "clearly a forgery", it was alleged. Michael Hickey and the two others were granted bail by the Court of Appeal in February. The judges, Lord Justice Roch, Mr Justice Hidden and Mr Justice Mitchell, are also asked to quash Mr Molloy's conviction.

The case continues today.



Best barre none: Players from Wembley FC, of the Icis League, and English National Ballet dancers go through their paces in Kensington, London, yesterday in a test for the Watchdog HealthCheck programme which found that footballers are fitter than dancers, while dancers showed more poise and agility

Photograph: Edward Sykes

Tourist rape gang leader detained for 12 years

The 14-year-old ringleader of the vicious gang rape of an Austrian tourist was yesterday sentenced to 12 years' detention. Adrian Henry, of Finsbury

Sir Lawrence Verney, the Recorder of London: "You and they showed no mercy, and you cannot now expect that mercy will be shown to you." The judge expressed amaze-

Park, north London, was told by ment that Henry, who is 6ft lins tall and weighs 17 stone, could still insist that the first act of intercourse with the woman was with her consent. She had been lifted off the

ground by the gang, stripped, as-saulted and then held down on the ground for the attack near King's Cross, London, last September. Afterwards she was years' detention. thrown in a canal. "How you can possibly imagine, if you do, that a woman who had been so treated was agreeing to have sexual intercourse with you is beyond understanding," the

judge said. He added that the victim identified Henry as one of those who helped to push her into the canal, having heard her say of the evidence against him but

Sir Lawrence said he had tak-

en into consideration Henry's age. "But the victim's account made it clear that, although the youngest of all, you are to be treated as a leader of your gang." Last month, the other seven youths involved were sentenced to between 10 and 12

The judge, who had lifted an order that Henry could not be named, said the teenager should remain under supervision for the whole period of his

sentence. Henry pleaded guilty to rape only as his trial was due to start. A report indicated that he pleaded because of the strength

awfulness of what he had done. However. Sir Lawrence said the sentence was two years shorter than it would otherwise

have been because of the plea.

The 33-year-old woman still had

to give evidence because another gang member denied rape. At the time of the offence, Henry was in care and on bail for robbery, for which he was due to be sentenced on Monday. Scientific examination of

his clothing revealed the woman's blood on his jacket and T-shirt, he said. Michael Cogan, for the de-fence, said Henry would have liked to have had the opportunity to apologise to the victim.

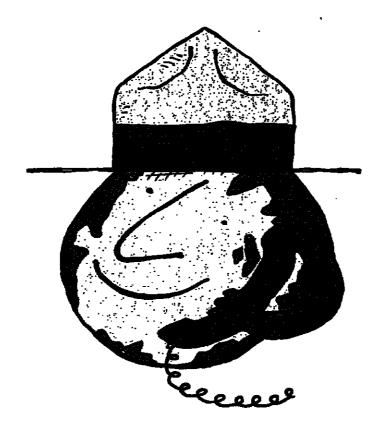
that he had no realisation of the been ashamed of his size. which had placed a burden on him, he added. "He mixes with people older than him and has to live up to their age. To a large extent he lives in a fantasy world."

The former husband of the victim watched the proceedings from the public gallery with an interpreter. The woman left him after he blamed her for the regretted his behaviour.

The judge also ordered that the identity of two more of the gang can now be revealed. They are: Timothy Davies, 17, and Colville Angol, 18, both of Islington, north London, who each received 11 years last The teenager had always







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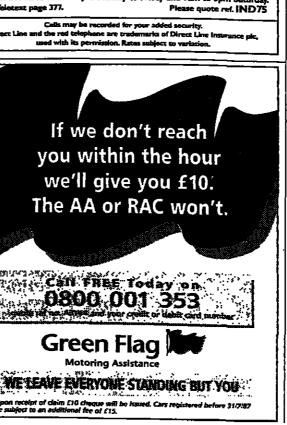
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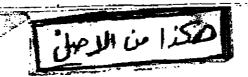
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Tonetone and the fresh-faced kids take over the club

reat democracies en-joy such pictures as this: a large room contains the press of flesh, serge trouser hard alongside trailing skirt, one's nose under another's ampit, an open mouth here, a finger waved aloft there, women of destiny, men of fashion, knots of anxious faces in the background; the whole vivid canvas alive with the noisy movement of the people's

representatives. . In France the painting is entitled The meeting in the termis court at Versailles, 1789, and it depicts the creators - abbés, deputies and citizens - of the Revolution meeting and arguing long before the Terror comes, and some of the infant Jacobins depicted turn executioners.

6 Crushed. they mutter that they will be back, but do not really believe it 9

while others (usually older and better dressed) become executees. The American version - more staid - is of the founding fathers busy founding. In the foreground Jefferson sits writing the new constitution with a sharpened quill, while Washington and others variously declaim, proclaim and

spectate. Now let us in Britain add to that list. For we too have a revolutionary scene worthy of an epic artist; this to be entitled Electing the Speaker: May 7th, 1997. But even before a brush is wielded or a ematics tells much of the story: three-fifths of Conservative MPs either retired or gone in the Great Cull; 260 new members present, most of them Labour, many of them women.

So, occupying barely one quarter of the unfamiliar Opposition benches, sit or stand the sad remnants of a defunct dynasty. With what sullen looks they contemplate the seats where once they - and their departed

IGHTED)

WITHOUT GLASSES

ton Entence and

comrades - made comfort-

able camp. Like old, crusty men ejected from their favourite arm-chairs in an exclusive (though decrepit) gentlemen's club, they resent or lament the loss of the best place by the fire, of fartstrewn corners, of first choice of the periodicals and first pick of the cigars. Crushed, they mutter that they will be back, but they do not really believe it.

The awful truth, as they can now see, is that the kindergarten has taken over the smoking room. For, frolicking, chattering and smiling all over the old haunts, are gangs of fresh-faced kids. Decked out in their party frocks - their hair brilliantined - these children overflow up the aisles, down the corridors, occupy the balconies, sit on one another's knees, lean against each other and laugh innocent

Student leaders joke with journalists, young women giggle with young men! There is no containing them. When the food is finally served, what a glorious mess there will be! In front of these innocents

- the only man with space around him - is the spunky guy who knocked open the gates, barged past the surprised porters and led the little ones into the room. They idolise him, for he is himself the stuff of their storybook fantasies: Tonetone the boy Prime Minister. Tonetone, aided by his trusty sidekicks (that kind but irascible old seadog, Captain Prescott, the eccentric but brilliant Professor Cookulus and - of course - a clever little snow-white dog called Peter), is about to set off on great adventures: Tonetone and the Minimum Wage: Tonetone in Europe; Tonetone and the Seven Pillars of

In high spirits they elect as Speaker a nice, motherly lady called Betty, and listen to all the speeches, and whisper to each other about what an odd place this is, and how - given time - they will do things very differently to those whose mouldy smells still cling to the upholstery. But they forget that - once upon a time - their wizened, feeble opponents were also children, and smiled and chattered.



Europe is banking on Brown

task Britain must perform to qualify is to transform the Bank

of England into a fully inde-

key Maastricht criteria.

pendent central bank, one of the

Sarah Helm Brussels

The Government's decision to surrender political control over

teria for monetary union."

News yesterday that Sir towards the enro.

Announcing the reforms on Tuesday, Gordon Brown, the tions preparing for the euro.

Mr Brown's fellow finance

ministers will have a chance to ners of its intention to join the control of interest rates does not which Mr Clarke used to prefully meet Maastricht's defini- sent as necessary "in the British grill him on the Government's first wave by the end of this year. tion of independence, it is real intentions on the single cur-Perhaps the biggest single

rency at a meeting in Brussels on Monday. If the Govern-ment hopes to join the first wave, on 1 January 1999, or

soon after, it must move swift-

ly. Under the Maastricht Treaty

Britain must "notify" its part-

the Bank of England was welcomed in Brussels yesterday as a move to line Britain up for the single currency. Although most analysts still believe it is unlikely Britain could be ready to join in the first wave, should it so choose, it is now, at least, becoming possible.

Many analysts in Europe think the move to give the Bank freedom was as much about easing the path to a single currency as it was about control of the domestic economy, but that it was portrayed in terms of the latter to ease its consumption. Alexandre Lamfalussy, president of the Euro-pean Monetary Institute, forerunner of the European central bank, called it "music to my ears." He told the European Parliament the reforms constituted "a major step towards meeting the independent cri-

David Simon, chairman of BP supporter, had been made minister for trade and competitiveness in Europe, added to speculation in Brussels about the new government's intentions

Chancellor, said they were desirable for domestic reasons, and were unrelated to the single currency. But that is not how it was viewed in other European finance ministries or in institu-

cant move. Under the stewardship of Kenneth Clarke, the former chancellor, Britain had already Although Mr Brown's an- met many economic-convernouncement on surrendering 'gence criteria, an achievement

viewed in Brussels as a signifi-

domestic political interest." Last month the European Commission's economic esti-

mates forecast Britain would meet the key budget deficit criteria for 1997 with every other country apart from Italy and

have to rejoin the exchange rate mechanism to qualify. Membership of the ERM is viewed by other member-states and the European Commission as another key criteria, although pretation of the treaty.

Joining Blair, page 20

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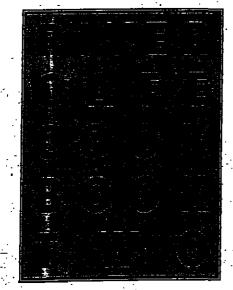
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Who's who in the Labour Government.

THE CABINET

Prime Minister - Tony Blair, 44, *£100,000 salary Deputy Prime Minister, Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions – John Prescott, 58, £60,000 Chancellor of the Exchequer - Gordon Brown, 47, £60,000 Foreign Secretary - Robin Cook, 51, £60,000 Lord Chancellor - The Lord Irvine of Lairg, 56, £135,406 Home Secretary - Jack Straw, 50, £60,000

Education and Employment Secretary - David Blunkett, 49, £60,000 President of the Board of Trade – Margaret Beckett, 54, £60,000 Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food – Dr Jack Conningham, 57, £60,000 Secretary of State for Scotland - Donald Dewar, 59, £60,000 Secretary of State for Defence - George Robertson, 51, £60,000

Secretary of State for Health - Frank Dobson, 57, £60,000 President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons -Ann Taylor, 49, £60,000 Secretary of State for National Heritage - Chris Smith, 45, £60,000 Secretary of State for Social Security - Harriet Harman, 46, £60,000 Secretary of State for Northern Ireland - Marjorie Mowlam, 47, £60,000

Secretary of State for Wales - Ron Davies. 50, £60,000 Secretary of State for International Development - Clare Short, 51, £60,000 Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Lords - The Lord Richard, 64,

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster - David Clark, 57, £60,000 Minister of Transport - Gavin Strang, 53, £60.000 Chief Secretary to the Treasury - Alistair Darling, 43, £60,000

DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND MINISTERS

AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND

Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food - Jack Cunningham Minister of State - Jeff Rooker, 55, £31,125. Parliamentary Secretaries - Elliot Morley, Lord Donoughue, 63, £23,623.

Agenda: Lifting the ban on beef exports meeting on Monday in Brussels: setting up independent Food Standards Agency: stopping quota- hopping over fish.

DEFENCE

Secretary of State - George Robertson Minister for Defence Procurement - Dr John Reid, 49, £31,125 Minister for the Armed Forces - Dr John Gilbert, 70, £31,125. Parliamentary Under-Secretary - John Spellar, 49, £23,623.

Agenda: Strategic defence, security, and spending review. Retention of Trident, although nuclear weapons to be included in multilateral negotiations "when satisfied with verified progress towards our goal of global

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Secretary of State - David Blunkett Minister for Employment and Disability Rights - Andrew Smith, 46, £31.125. Minister for School Standards - Stephen Byers, 44, £31,125,

Minister for Education and Employment tone, 34. おルルン. Parliamentary Under-Secretaries: Standards - Éstelle Morris, 44, £23,623. Life-long learning - Dr Kim Howells, 50, Welfare to work - Alan Howarth, 52, £23,623.

Agenda: Two of Labour's five election

pledges have to be fulfilled: the promise to cut class sizes to 30 or under for 5-, 6- and 7-year-olds, linked to the abolition of the assisted places scheme, and getting 250,000 under-25s off benefit and into work. Other priorities include implementation of Social Chapter and Sir Ron Dearing's review of higher education to be released in June or

ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND THE REGIONS

Secretary of State - John Prescott Minister for the Environment - Michael Meacher, 57, £31,125 Ministers of State: Local Government - Hilary Armstrong, 51,

Regions, regeneration and planning – Dick Caborn, 53, £31,125

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries: London and construction - Nick Raynsford, Transport in London - Glenda Jackson, 60,

Not yet designated - Angela Eagle, 36,

Roads - Baroness Hayman, £23,623.

Agenda: To promote use of public transport, and curb the car culture. To introduce a new rail authority to ensure more effective regulation of the railways. New public/private partnership to improve London Underground. Review of vehicle excise duty, and partnership with car industry to promote low-emission vehicles. Environmental objectives include tax penalties for pollution and creation of new

green taskforce of unemployed to clean up

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH

environment and wildlife sites.

Foreign Secretary - Robin Cook. Minister for Europe - Doug Henderson, 47, Foreign Office Minister of State - Derek Fatchett, 51, £31,125
Foreign Office Minister of State – Tony
Lloyd, 47, £31,125

Parliamentary Under-Secretary - The Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean,

Agenda: Rapid completion of single market in Europe. High priority is enlargement of the union, reform of CAP, retention of veto on key national interest issues in Europe, and signing of social chapter. Press for reform of UN, including resolution of funding crisis.

HEALTH

Secretary of State - Frank Dobson. Ministers of State: 49, £31,125 Health Minister of State - Alan Milburn, 39, £31,125 Health Minister of State - Baroness Jay of Paddington, 57, £31,125. Parliamentary Under-Secretary - Paul Boateng, 45, £23,623.

Agenda: Abolition of the internal market, with first £100m saved to take 100,000 off waiting lists. No wait for cancer surgery. Annual real-terms increase in NHS spending. Action on mixed-sex wards. Ban on tobacco advertising. Independent food standards agency.

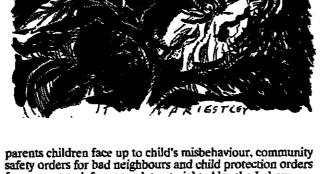
HOME OFFICE

Home Secretary - Jack Straw. Ministers of State: Criminal policy – Alun Michael, 53, £31,125 Prisons, probation, Europe - Joyce Quin. 52. Parliamentary Under-Secretaries:

Deregulation, drugs, elections – **George** Howarth, 47, £23,623. Immigration and nationality - Mike O'Brien,

Constitutional issues - The Lord Williams of Mostyn, 56, £23,623.

Agenda: The Home Office will be implementing a fast-track punishment for persistent young offenders by halving the time from arrest to sentencing. The Labour manifesto also includes a pledge to introduce parental responsibility orders, to make



INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT Secretary of State - Clare Short Parliamentary Under-Secretary - George Foulkes, 55,

for youngsters left out too late at night. Also the Labour

Party has promised a free vote on the ban of handguns.

Agenda: Defining department's sphere of influence in relation to DTI. Restructuring aid programme.

CABINET OFFICE

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster - David Clark Minister without Portfolio - Peter Mandelson, 43, £31,125 Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Office of public service - Peter Kilfoyle, 50. £23.623.

Agenda: Ensure government and administration is run efficiently. Better co-ordination of government policy through new role given to Peter Mandelson. Cleaning up Parliament and politics and working with Nolan Committee.

LAW OFFICERS Attorney General - John Morris QC, 66. Solicitor General - Charles Falconer QC,

Lord Advocate (Scotland) - Andrew Hardie QC (to be made a Lord), 51, £78,072 Solicitor General for Scotland - Colin Boyd QC, 43, £66,811

Agenda: Reform of Crown Prosecution Service.

LORD CHANCELLOR'S DEPARTMENT Lord Chancellor - Lord Irvine of Lairg Parliamentary Secretary - Geoff Hoon, 44,

Agenda: Bill of Rights, to incorporate European Convention on Human Rights. Review of civil justice and legal aid.

NATIONAL HERITAGE Secretary of State for National Heritage -Chris Smith. Minister for Film and Tourism - Tom Clarke.

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries: Arts - Mark Fisher, 52, £23,623 Sports - Tony Banks, 54, £23,623

Agenda: Review of allocation of lottery funds. Review of millennium projects. Establishment of a National Endowment for Science and the Arts to sponsor young

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE Secretary of State for Northern Ireland -

Ministers of State Security, police, criminal justice, prisons, economic development - Adam Ingram, 50,

Political development, finance, personnel, information - Paul Murphy, 48, £31,125. Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State Education, Training and Employment, Health, Community Relations - Tony Worthington, 56, £23,623. Environment, Agriculture - Lord Dubs, 65,

Agenda: The new team will continue to try and get the peace process back on track. They have to prepare for Mo Mowlam's first major appearance, which will be at the all party talks at Stormont on 3 June. Another priority is to stop the marching season, which starts at the end of May, erupting into

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE President of the Council and Leader of the

Commons - Ann Taylor Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the Lords -

SCOTTISH OFFICE

Secretary of State for Scotland - Donald Ministers of State: and devolution - Henry McLeish, 48, £31,125 Education and industry- Brian Wilson, 48, £31,125. Parliamentary Under-Secretaries Agriculture, environment and fisheries -Lord Sewell, £23,623. Health and arts - Sem Galbraith, 51. Local government and transport - Malcolm Chisholm, 48, £23,623.

Agenda: To set up the machinery for a referendum on devolution in Scotland before the autumn of this year. The parliament will have law-making powers, defined and limited financial powers to vary revenue.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Secretary of State for Social Security and Minister for Women - Harriet Harman Minister of State for social security and welfare reform - Frank Field, 54, £31,125 Parliamentary Under-Secretaries: Keith Bradley, 46, £23,623 Baroness Hollis of Heigham, 55, £23,623. John Denham, 43, £23,623

Agenda: Implementing the 'welfare to work' programme. Creation of Special Employment Zones to co-ordinate benefits, training and job-hunting. Review how to pay for long-term care of the elderly. The DSS also have to crack down further on tax avoidance, which costs an estimated £2bn a

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

President of the Board of Trade - Margaret Ministers of State: Trade - Lord Clinton-Davis, 68, £31,125. Competitiveness - lan McCartney, 46,

Industry, energy, science and technology ~ John Battle, 46, £31,125.
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries:
Consumer affairs – Nigel Griffiths, 41,

Small firms and regional policy - Barbara Roche, 43, £23,623 Minister for trade and competiveness in Europe Sir David Simon

Agenda: Implementation of the various parts of the social chapter. Setting up the minimum wage councils.

TREASURY

Chancellor of the Exchequer - Gordon Chief Secretary to the Treasury - Alistair

Darling Paymaster General (private finance) -Geoffrey Robinson, 58, £31,125. Financial Secretary - Dawn Primarolo, 43. £31,125

Economic Secretary - Helen Liddell, 46,

Agenda: The incoming government will held its first budget within two months of coming into power. They have pledged they will be announcing the windfall levy for the welfare to work programme and cut VAT on fuel to 5 per cent. The Treasury also has to appoint two new committees, firstly a Monetary Policy Committee to advise the newly independent Bank of England, and a Council of Economic Advisers to advise the Treasury itself on economic matters. The treasury is also committed to boosting growth in order to raise investment.

WELSH OFFICE

Secretary of State for Wales - Ron Davies Parliamentary Under-Secretaries: Win Griffiths, 54, £23,623. Peter Hain, 47, £23,623

Agenda: The Labour manifesto commits the government to a referendum on Welsh devolution "no later than the autumn of 1997". The Welsh assembly will provide democratic control of the existing Welsh Office functions. Its aim is that the assembly will replace a tier of quangos with the directly elected body.

WHIPS

Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury and Chief Whip - Nick Brown, 46, £36,613. Treasurer of Her Majesty's Household, Deputy Chief Whip - George Mudie Comptroller of Her Majesty's Household -Thomas McAvoy Vice Chamberlain of Her Majesty's Household - Janet Anderson

Robert Ainsworth Lord Commissioners – Graham Allen James Dowd John McFall Jon Owen Jones

Assistant whips -

Clive Betts David Clelland Kevin Hughes David Jamieson Jane Kennedy Greg Pope Bridget Prentice

Captain of the Gentlemen at Arms -Lords Chief Whip - The Lord Carter.

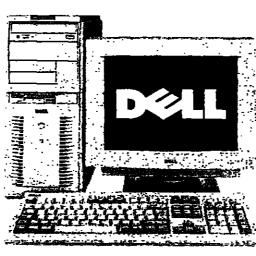
*Mr Blair has indicated that he will not take the full salary to which he is entitled.

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Setting up the

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DFFICE

blair's britain

Humility matters, Blair tells MPs

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

An appeal for humility, discipline and high personal standards was delivered to Labour MPs by Tony Blair yesterday in a welcoming speech in which he reminded his party: "The peo-ple are the masters."

Implicitly repudiating the clarion-call of the 1945 Labour landslide, from Labour MP Hartley Shawcross - "We are the masters ... for a very long time to come" - the Prime Minister said: "We are not the masters

people. "We will never forget that, and if we ever do, the people a job and to uphold the highwill soon show that what the electorate give, the electorate can take away."

With 418 ministers and MPs Government." now entitled to attend meetings of the Parliamentary Labour Party, yesterday's inaugural session of the PLP was held in Westminster's Church House, because there was no Commons committee-room large enough to hold them all.

ssons of last week's victory was the importance of strength. unity and discipline.

"Look at the Tory party now," he said. "Pause, reflect, then vow never to let us emu-

"Day after day, when they were in government they had the total indiscipline and thoughtlessness that charac- they rejoice with gladness everterised us in the early 1980s. more. Where are they now, those great rebels? When the walls the lone MP not to give Mr Blair came crashing down beneath that tidal wave of change, there he did applaud and at the very was no discrimination between the Tory MPs. They were all swept away, the rebels and loy-

"Of course, speak-your

minds. But realise why you are here: you are here because of the Labour Party, under which you fought."

There was applause at that oint in Mr Blair's speech, and he returned to the theme later, after the press and media had left the meeting, saying: "The coming period will be a test of character. There is no time or opportunity for self-indulgence. We must be disciplined at all

He also called on his colleagues to set themselves high personal standards of conduct. Remember, 100," he said, "that you are not here to enjoy the trappings of power but to do est standards in public life. You are all ambassadors for New Labour and ambassadors for the

Mr Blair reminded them they were also in Parliament - and power - to deliver the Labour contract with the people". keeping the manifesto promises made on education, health, jobs, economic stability, crime, the welfare state, the environ-Mr Blair said that one of the ment, political sleaze and the pledge of leadership in Europe. Before the Prime Minister spoke, some MPs noted the words carved into the wall around the domed chamber -"Holy is the true light and passing wonderful, lending radiance to them that endured in the heat of the conflict: from MPs-out there, behaving with Christ they inherit a home of unfading splendour, wherein

> end he grinned at Mr Blair and gave him a thumbs-up, which the new Prime Minister acknowledged with a broad grin

DAILY POEM

Quiet Night In

By Roddy Lumsden

My first in seven years (illness aside): I mope about the house; I want to talk and talk until I say one thing I mean.

I run through fifty States, all thirty-seven Shakespeare plays, the Beatles' Number Ones, nicknames and grounds of ninety-two league teams.

So used to having sleep's skin peeled for me, I can't bite in. An hour before the dawn, I drink the soft sleep of the sober man,

but in that sleep, the little people take my fingernails and toenails for their saucers; my thick hair stuffs a mattress for their queen.

Roddy Lumsden, born in 1966, made a living in Edinburgh "by playing quiz machines and working as a quizmaster" before winning a Scottish Arts Council bursary and becoming writing fellow for the City of Aberdeen. This poem comes from his first collection, Yeah Yeah Yeah, published today by Blood-

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Cup Final feeling for new boy in the House



Political Correspondent

As the taxi nudged down Whitehall a 12-year journey was coming to an end for Labour's first MP for Selby in North Yorkshire. When John Grogan, now 36, was first selected to fight the seat it had a Conservative majority of 20,000. He almost gave up after his second attempt in 1992, but the thought of Labour winning it without him sent

him back for just one more try. And it paid off. Yesterday morning. in response to a command from the whips' office, he was on the 7am train from Leeds with the equally new and surprised Labour MP for Scarborough and Whitby, Lawrie Quinn.

"I always feel about seven-years-old when I come to London." Mr Grogan said as Horse Guards Parade inched into view. "I associate it with cup finals and excitement. Being an MP and mildly important myself is a great thrill."

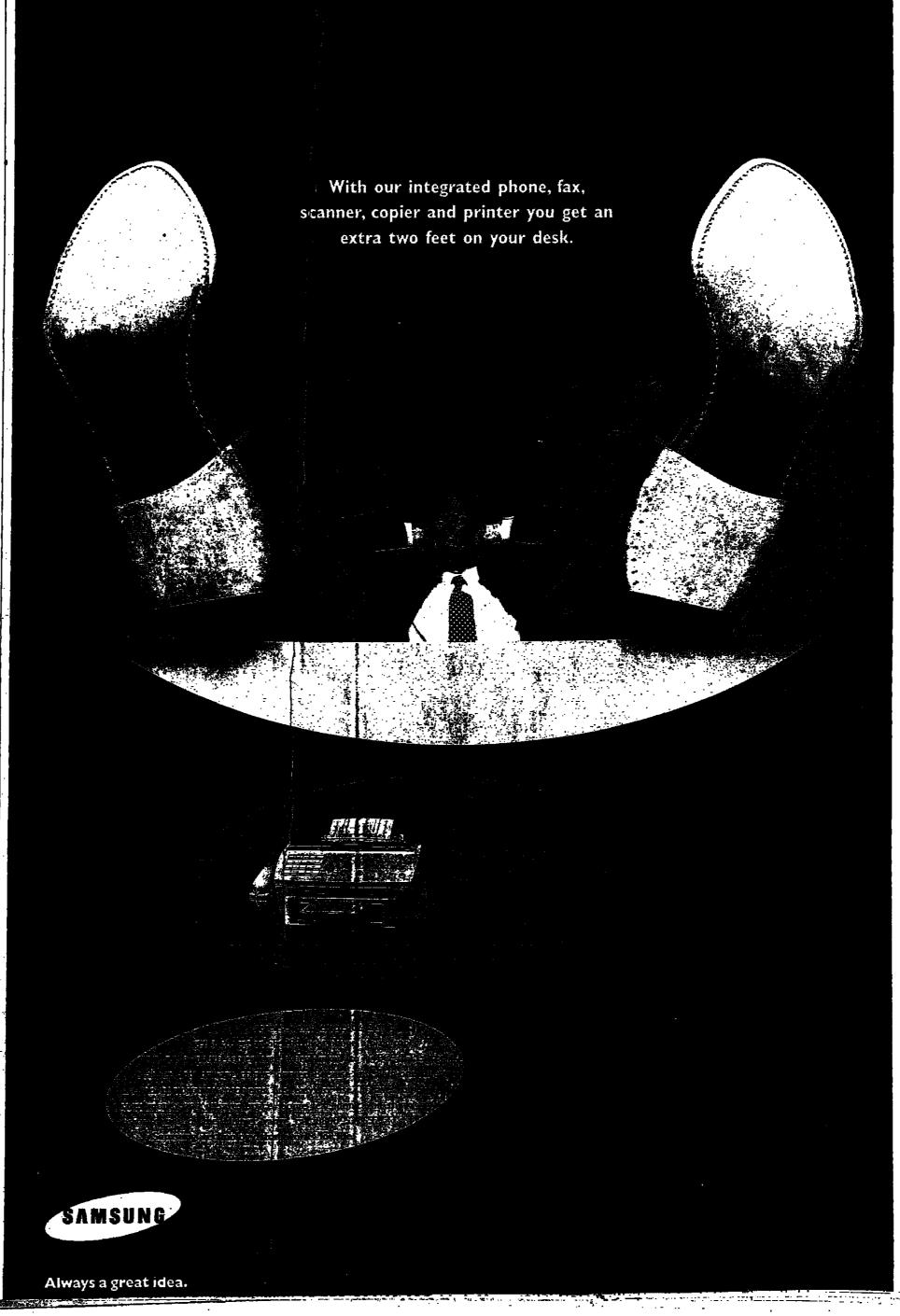
He admits to finding it all a bit daunting. But he thinks the best way is to take it steady, not to try to walk before he can run. Tony Blair's gov-

timing, his brand new pager went off for the first time. It was Michael Meacher's office. Could he come in to see the environment minister tomorrow morning about a local issue on which he has already been lobbying? Perhaps hiring the secretary will have to wait a day or two.

"I do feel excited and a little bit neryous ... you think, 'can I do this?' Losing almost becomes a way of life. You campaign, you lose an election, then you go and do something else," he said. At 5am last Friday, after a long night, Mr Grogan knew that this time, it was going to be different. The lories' 9,000 majority in Selby was now

a 3,800 Labour majority. Yesterday his tasks were relatively simple. Do a short interview with Radio York in the cab, get a security pass, hear a speech by Tony Blair, meet the Yorkshire Post and watch the re-election of the Speaker of the Commons.

He began to talk about all the things he must do - in particular, working to build up his local party. "It's pointless to say I won because I shook 10,000 hands. I won because of the Blair effect and the modernisation of the



Dorrell and Clarke in deal to stop right wing

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

A pact between supporters of Stephen Dorrell and Kenneth Clarke was emerging last night to stop the frontrumers for the Conservative Party leadership, Michael Howard and William Hague.

The Dorrell supporters were privately working on a strategy of combining with the Clarke camp to maximise their support for the second ballot, although there was speculation at Westminster that Mr Dorrell may be forced to pull out, if he fails to win enough clear support for the first round.

He presented himself as a centreright candidate yesterday but clearly staked out the middle ground in a letter to all Tory MPs, saying that he wanted to "rebuild the Conservative coalition" among business, farmers, nurses, teachers, savers, pensioners, and young mothers - all of whom were alienated to some degree during the 18 years of Tory rule.

Mr Hague tried put behind him the dithering over his aborted pact with Mr Howard and launched his own campaign for the leadership on the slogan "A fresh start". He underlined

his youthful appeal – at 36 he is the youngest in the field – by hosting a breakfast press conference in the marble and glass atrium of a designer restaurant at Westminster.

The only one of the six contenders to appear with a specially designed platform, with "A fresh start" graphics. Mr Hague was supported by a handful of Tory MPs, including a member of the new intake, the journalist Julie Kirkbride. He shrugged aside suggestions that he was too young, "By my age, William Pitt was nearly on his death bed."

Accepting the blame for backing out of the deal with Mr Howard, under whom Mr Hague would have been deputy leader and chairman of the party, he said: "I thought on reflection ... that if I'm good enough to be offered those things, I'm good enough to stand as a leadership

"I have been undecided at the weekend over whether to stand. It is a big step for someone of my age and my stage of life. I am 36 years old and getting married and so on ... But in the end I decided, given the number of people who have said to me 'you must stand because you are our best hope of winning the next general election, that it

was right to go ahead and do so." He is accused by the right of being John Major's heir apparent. One John Redwood supporter said: "He's John

Major with a PPE degree. If Mr Howard beats him for the leadership, Mr Hague may have an eye to replacing him after the next election. "The Conservative Party is unique in the ability to be ruthless with its leaders when it wants to be. That is one of the historic advantages of the Conservative Party," Mr Hague said. His campaign headquarters is temporarily based in the Westminster offices of Jonathan Sayeed, a re-elect-

ed Tory MP and businessman. His campaign manager is James Ar-buthnot, a former defence minister. He matched Mr Howard's pledge

to oppose the European single cur-rency, and mentioned the "M" word, for modernisation, but denied he was proposing to make the Tory party more Blairite. "We are living in a Conservative country that has temporarily got fed up with the Conservarive Party. That is what we have to change and that means standing up for our traditional beliefs, our basic principles, something which is in tune with the country, but having a



Maximising support: Stephen Dorrell, who was presenting himself as a centre-right candidate yesterday

Cabinet that is a shadow of its former self

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

Kenneth Clarke yesterday wandered behind the Speaker's Chair in the House of Commons in search of the Shadow Cabinet room and asked: "Is this the way?"

It had been 18 years since a Conservative Leader of the had been an Opposition Opposition, Margaret Thatcher, had met with her team in the Shadow Cabinet room, and they did not know the way.

Those who survived last Thursday's rout at the polls were called to the meeting by John Major as, barely half a mile away, Tony Blair welcomed his victorious troops to a mass meet- spirits. ing with tumultuous applause.

party. They did not bother to the last traces of Labour's log ake over the ashes of their de- occupation of the rooms. feat. With seven of their number lost, including Michael Portillo, Malcolm Rifkind, and Michael Forsyth, they dispensed with a painful inquest.

Mr Major found himself surrounded by the contenders for his job. The party chairman, Brian Mawhinney, and former Chief Whip, Alastair Goodlad

were among the first to arrive. Next were the leadership challenger Peter Lilley, formér secretary of state for social security secretary, and Gillian Shephard, the former secretary ployment, who threw her support behind him.

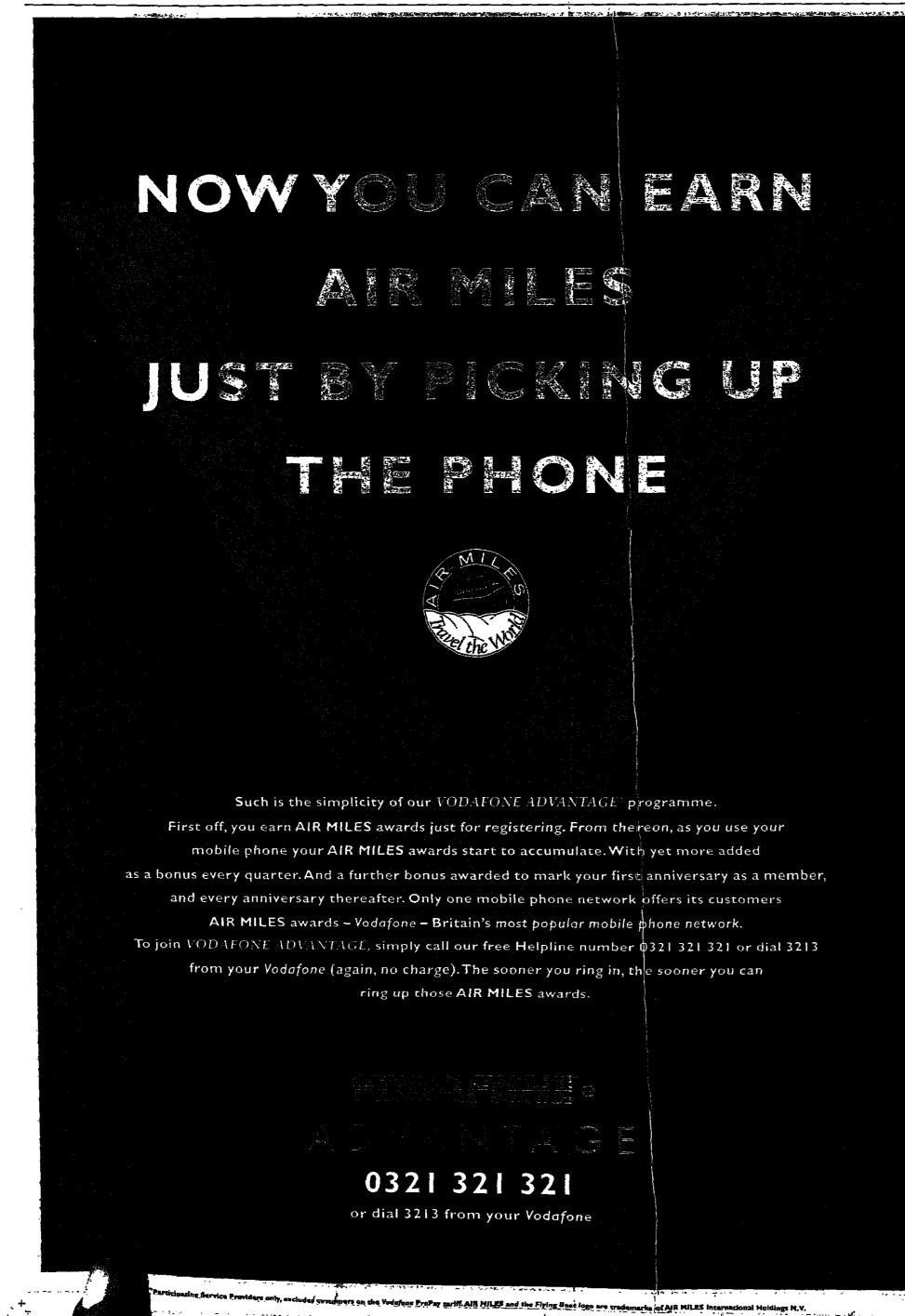
Other contenders for the leadership - Stephen Dorrell, former secretary of state for health, the ex-home secretary, Michael Howard, and the former secretary of state for Wales. William Hague - followed.

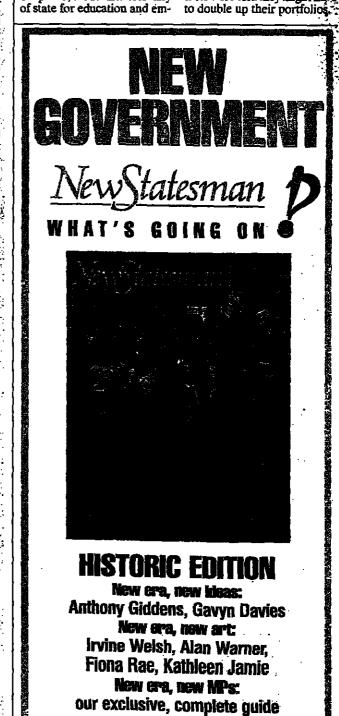
The former Chancellor, who spokesman before but not a member of the Shadow Cabinet. looked a little lost and was the last in. It had echoes of the great defeat after the 1945 election. when Shadow Cabinet members, sometimes gathered in their favourite watering hole, their Carlton Club, to keep up their

Mr Blair and his team had They traipsed into the Shadow Cabinet room to begin the for the shadow leader and the slow process of rebuilding their slow process of rebuilding their team, but they had cleared be

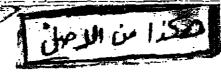
Mr Major told his colleague that he would be acting as caretaker leader for a short while, until a successor fact been selected, then he wouldretire to the backbenches.

In the meantime, he would not be attempting to reshuffle; the Shadow Cabinet, which would tie the hands of the next leader. Mr Major will take on the role of shadow foreign secretary and defence secretary, vacated by Mr Rifkind and Mr Portillo. Others around the table were told they might have





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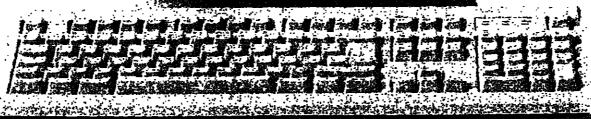
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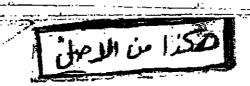
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Farewell to the dorm as boarding schools turn to sleep-overs

The future of boarding schools may lie in repackaging themselves as "sleep-over" schools, according to a leading head.

Boarding has been in decline for a decade with numbers down from 125,000 in 1985 to 90,000 last year.

Ros McCarthy, head of Cobham Hall, Kent, and chairman of the Boarding Schools Assoin more flexible boarding arrangements.

Some schools, she told the association's annual conference, now give pupils the chance to book one "sleep-over" a week which may be increased to three or five "as they get older and their enthusiasm grows".

Figures to be released next week by the Independent Schools Information Service, are expected to show that boarding", measured for the first time in the schools' annual census, is on the increase.

This may be known as "flexi-new accommodation. boarding", "opportunity hoardhave a night together without

Mrs McCarthy said: "Perhaps in this day and age we should adopt more user-friendly terms and become known as sleepover schools. Children and parents understand this concept

and find it very attractive." Weekly boarding began 10 families where both parents are working. Flexi-boarding is an extension of this.

Full boarding has become increasingly unpopular with a gen-eration of parents which is reluctant to send its children away from home. It has also suffered from cutbacks in the

Mrs McCarthy said: "One ing" or "Friday night boarding" small boy looking at brochures for those whose parents wish to ents, 'Is this a hotel for children?' For senior schools with their single rooms. en suite showers, sports centres, tennis courts and swimming pools, boarding is the wrong word. These are hotel facilities worthy

> But Mrs McCarthy said they were still struggling against out-"There are as many happy, well-adjusted children at board , schools as at day schools. Schools of any kind can be good or bad so why the witch-hunt against boarding?" A spokesman for the

Independent Schools Information Service said that prep



away children for long periods." Occasional Friday night boarding, he added, was convenient for those schools which wanted to keep Saturday

school going. He said: "This isn't a last desto adapt what they do."

Victim TV puts privacy at risk

Media Correspondent

The growth of fly-on-the-wall victim entertainment" programmes such as Blues and Twos about the emergency services is raising public concern that television is intruding into people's privacy, according to a

Survey yesterday.

Commissioned by the newly formed Broadcasting Standards
Commission, the study found that viewers strongly believe that ordinary members of the public should have a right to privacy.

be willing to flout accepted rules of conduct as far as privacy is concerned in order to make their programmes," the report

"Programmes of this type are undoubtedly popular with many viewers and represent a growing genre of reality-based programming," said the re-port. "Critically, one in three felt that individual privacy was threatened.

"People are very interested in these programmes, but they are ambivalent about this aspect of it." said the BSC chairwoman Lady Elspeth Howe.

However, the survey found that people believe holding some form of public position removes your rights to privacy. Comparing different public roles, the survey found that viewers believe the Royal Family should have greater rights to privacy than a school-

Only criminals were perceived to have fewer rights to privacy than politicians.

Like business people, they were deemed to have limited rights, depending on what they

to documentary film-makers.

The BSC is currently drawing up a code of conduct on privathat covers secret filming and the use of interviews. Documentary film-makers argue that there is a public interest which allows them to invade the privacy of some politicians.

isinessmen or criminals. The BSC, which was formed on I April after the merger of the Broadcasting Standards Council and the Broadcasting Complaints Commission, conducted the survey to discover how social changes have affected people's views about television standards.

It found that only 5 per cent of people believed that anti-social behaviour such as violent crime was caused by television.

Instead it found that people thought it could contribute to "unsocial" behaviour such as swearing in children and a lack of respect that could lead on to anti-social behaviour. The majority of respondents

claimed that the media has more influence on the behaviour of children now than it did when they were growing up. Most thought television had

three times the influence on children that it used to have. "They go to school and come home with their shirt hanging out," said one of the people

surveyed. "You see that in Neighbours - in Neighbours they go to school with their shirt hanging out, so our kids start doing it.
"It's only small things, but how far away are they from more serious things? That's

what wormes me. It also found that around 60 per cent of the population are in favour of some form of regauon iot (elevision cor The findings will be a boost with only 16 per cent who be-

schools had been in the armed forces which have re-Exclusive to RAC duced by half the number of chilperate attempt by boarding forefront of flexi-boarding, perhaps because the decline in full boarding had been particschools to make themselves atdren receiving the Government's boarding school allowance. tractive. It is the other way Boarding schools have worked hard to shed their imularly marked among younger pupils. "It must reflect a feeling round. This is what parents are asking for so schools are having among some parents that eight is a bit young to be sending age of hard beds and cold show-Education+, The Tabloid ers and many have invested in

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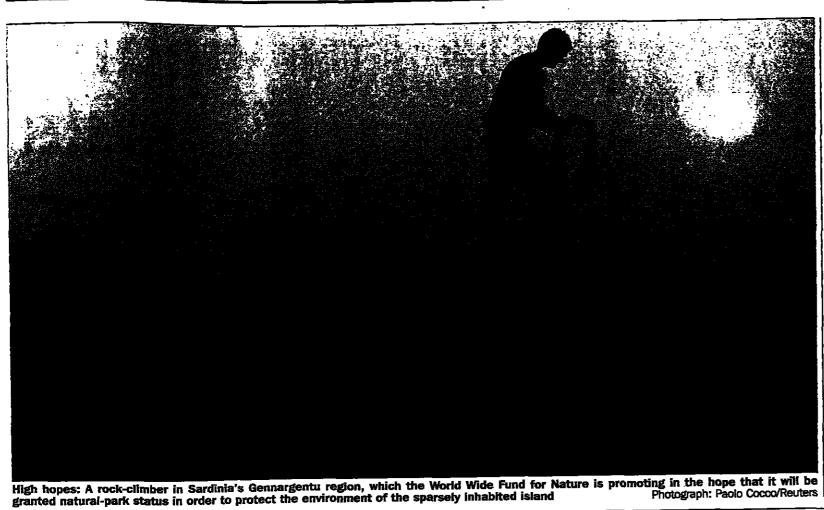
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Paris and Bonn Taste hail Britain as beel' equal partner Pekil

Donald Macintyre and Imre Karacs Воля

Robin Cook claimed a place for Britain in the leadership of Europe yesterday, and pledged that Tony Blair would reach agreement with his partners on European Union reform.

We want to draw a line under the sterile and negative confrontation of the past," he told the German Foreign Minister, Klaus Kinkel.

In a high profile trip to Paris and Bonn, his first since becoming Foreign Secretary only five days ago, Mr Cook identified key areas of potential agreement between the UK and its EU partners which he was op-

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BRITAIN'S BIGGEST AND

a deal at the European summit in Amsterdam next month.

I want today to be start of a new era of relationship between Britain and Europe," he said after talks with Mr Kinkel. "We want to be helping to shape the direction of Europe."
The Foreign Secretary hailed

an agreement on banning land mines with Hervé de Charette, the French Foreign Minister. and Mr Kinkel as heralding a new era in which Britain would be equal partners with France and Germany and no longer a third party "heckling from the sidelines". The deal - proclaimed by Mr Kinkel as "a very good beginning" to the new post-election Anglo-German relationship - coincided with the formal announcement of a moratorium on British forces'

use of land mines. Mr Cook made it clear in meetings with both foreign ministers that the new government was determined to enshrine the UK's permanent right to main-tain its own border controls and he repeated that the government would not agree at the Amsterdam Inter-Governmental Conference (IGC) to give the EU responsibilities for defence.

But he also laid heavy emphasis on the readiness of the new government to see new "codecision" powers for the European Parliament on all directives decided by majority vote, as well as the UK's eagerness to sign up both to the Social Chapter and to an Employment Chapter putting jobs at the top of the European agenda. He also cited the enforcement of anti-fraud measures as one of several headings under which Britain is prepared to accept a limited in-

crease in majority voting. Mr Cook hinted that Britain might be prepared to accept some of the Franco-German proposals for "flexibility", which would allow a core group of EU states to deepen integration, without waiting for the "slowest

boat in the convoy" to catch up. group, lead by France and Gerfrom the laggards. The urge by the self-appointed leaders to opt out might weaken, now that

Britain is aboard, he suggested. At the same time Mr Cook in Europe, not just two." made it clear that there were sharp limits to any "flexibility package" that Britain would accept. The Foreign Secretary said any such package would have to be ratified unanimously.

Britain will press for such deals to cover a minimum of around 10 countries to ensure does not pave the way for a reversion to an inner core of the

timistic would pave the way for half dozen countries which belonged to the EC before 1973. Mr Cook was also emphatic

that he saw no reason for such a pact to cover foreign and security policy - where the Labour government will insist on retaining its veto. Such a deal, he said would undermine the international influence of the union as a trading bloc.

There are strong signs, reig-forced in Mr Cook's discussions in Paris at the Quai D'Orsay, the French Foreign Office, yesterday, that Britain's partners are moving to an accommodation on the issue of border controls which recognises the special status of both the UK and Ireland as islands. And while insisting that Britain wanted progress in securing reform of fisheries quota-hopping Mr Cook conspicuously refrained from repeating the Conservative administration's explicit threat to sabotage the IGC if it did not get full agreement on the issue next month.

Mr Cook repeatedly drew a distinction between the new



Robin Cook: 'We want to help shape Europe

government's stance of "constructive engagement with that of the previous one which had staged a confrontation which had been going "nowhere in Europe except towards the exit door

Mr Cook was accorded a warm welcome in both capitals He blamed Tory "obstruc-tion" for forcing the leading mitted to making Britain a leading player in Europe and many, to cut themselves away that is why it is right that I should begin by visiting the other two big players in Europe. We want to make sure that from now on there are three players

While emphasising the importance of Bonn's relationship with the new government. Mr Kinkel sounded a slightly more cautious note last night, saying it would not be right to talk of a "triangular relationship" between London, Paris and Bonn. But the Paris end of the Franthat European Monetary Union co-German axis welcomed the idea of involving London in a "triangle".

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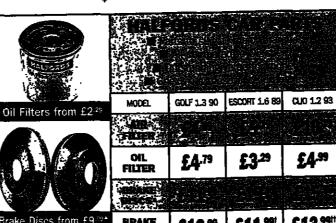
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FBI launches inquiry into Israeli mole

A top United States official may have supplied Israel with highly sensitive information that the State Department wanted kept secret, according to a report in yesterday's Washington Post, which said the FBI had launched an investigation to discover the official's identity.

The inquiry is said to have been opened in January after US security officials intercepted a telephone conversation. between an Israeli official in Tel Aviv and a senior Israeli agent in the US. The conversation referred to a third man by what appeared to be his codename, "Mega". According to the intercept, the Israeli official wanted Mega to supply, a copy of a top-secret letter, sent by the then US Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, to Yasser Arafat, setting out US guarantees to the Palestinian leader on the eve of the Israeli withdrawal from Hebron. The request expensed to reflect in withdrawal from Hebron. The request appeared to reflect Israel's suspicion that the US was dealing on Hebron behind its back. Mary Dejevsky - Washington

Greece stands firm on Marbles

Convincing Britain to return the 2,500-year-old Parthenon marbles "is a basic tenet of Greece's cultural foreign spolicy," the Culture Minister, Evangelos Venizelos, said in a statement, after Britain's new Labour government flath refused to send them back to Greece. "We ... are speaking with the voice of the monument," he added. AP - Athens

Marseille godfather shot deag

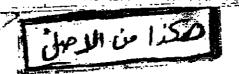
One of the last godfathers of the Marseille underworld was shot dead with his companion in a parking lot, police said. They added that a couple shot Jean Toci, 64, and his companion, Berthe Cremieux, from a passing car outside a supermarket at Istres, near Marseille. Reuters - Marseille

Winnie Mandela to testify

South Africa's "truth commission" investigation into apartheid-era crimes said it would probably call Winnie Mandela, the former wife of President Nelson Mandela to testify about two missing children. Reuters - Cape

£2,000 redress for prostitute

Sandy van der Toorn, a woman convicted of prostitution, was awarded 15,000 rand (£2,000) by the South African Civil Court because she was not allowed to get dressed while police searched her home. AP - East London



AV 1967 • THE INDEPENDENT

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Taste of English beer to pull the Peking crowds

Taste of English beer to pull the Peking crowds

but a small corner of the Pcois to get its first ple's Republic will be forever English. No. I as not talking taste of an about Her Majety's embassy, but the John Bulbub in Peking, due to open in 3 days time. authentic pub. Teresa Poole Complete with a real Victorian fireplace, licrusta wallpa-

reports Here is an inglish pub built like Paul whecan put tiles up fessional wy, said Simon Keep, oversas development

Home comforts: the John **Buil in Sopron, Hungary**

6 I've come from Birmingham to a place like China. It's a big culture shock 9

UK, and assembled on site. "As soon as you walk through that door, with the exception of a few faces behind the bar, everything else will be authentically British," said Mr Keep.

rian emfort imported from And that includes everything Englan" and "Genuine pub atmosphre" when the Sinofrom the yellow othre linerusta the encof this month. The pub's cricketing memorabilia on the interiowas shipped in from the

etiquette will also be promoled. We'll encourage people to go

to the bar to buy a pint and come back and sit at the table." Upstairs yesterday, two dozen Chinese trainee bar-staff were being put through some authentic phrases: "Glenfid-dieh, Johnny Walker, Bells, Grants ... " they repeated in unison. And then it was off for "beer knowledge" at the local Fosters office, "how beer is made, appreciation between different beers, bitters, ales, lagers. And then they are going to do a taste test", explained Andrew Clapham, the man who will be Peking's first publican.

Mr Clapham, a 32-year-old authentic New Zealander, is fresh from running the Pharaoh & Firkin in Fulham, London, for four years. "I'll be here be-hind the bar a lot," he said. He likes the local Peking beer, but customers will also be able to wash down their pub grub - fish and chips, bangers and mash and other "standard British fare" - with real imported English draught bitter. At nearly 13 a pint, it will not

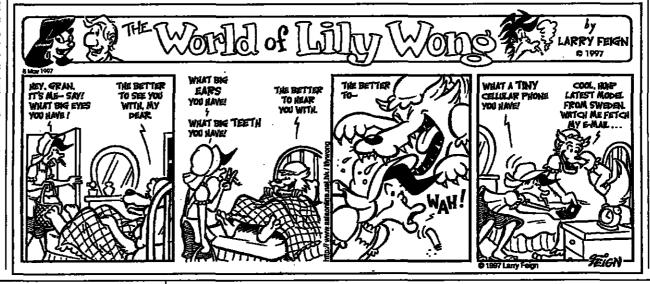
be within the grasp of the average Chinese drinker, but the pub is nevertheless targeting the local market. "We're looking for the aspirational local Chinese," said Mr Keep. Don't they tend to prefer karaoke? "They are moving on from karaoke now. they are getting more sophisti-cated," he insisted. Does this extend to warm beer? "We'll be serving our beer at the appropriate temperature," ensured Mr Keep. Allied Domecq, which owns

more than 4,000 pubs in the UK. has already branched out with pubs in eastern Europe. This is its first pub venture in Asia, apart from one inside Bangkok airport. But can one really build an authentic English pub abroad?

Mr Routley has explored one or two local Chinese bars and found them "OK, but nothing John Bull, he says, is "like com-



State of collapse: Nguyen Thi Lua, wife of defendant Vu Xuan Truong, is supported in a Hanoi court during the trial of the country's biggest drugs ring involving 22 people, including 11 police and border guards



Kasparov gets the blues in half-time draw

William Hartston

The world chess champion, Garry Kasparov, gave another unconvincing performance against the IBM supercomputer Deep Blue, when he drew the third game from a clearly superior po-sition. Scores therefore remain level at one win each with one draw at the halfway stage of the match. The result of the third game, however, was considerably overshadowed by what happened in the aftermath of Deep Blue's victory in game two.

When that game ended, there was general agreement that Kasparov had been convincingly outplayed. But after feverish argument among the grandmasters at the match in New York, the inescapable conclusion was that Kasparov's resignation had been premature. For he had overlooked a resource that would have en-

abled him to salvage a draw. To add to the indignity, one of the computer's programmers appeared on stage at the Equitable Center to announce that Deep Blue itself had confirmed that Kasparov could have saved the game. Kasparov was quoted as saving: "It played so brilliantly I đidn't think to check it."

The theme of man's intimidation by machine continued in the third game. By an unusual choice of opening moves, Kas-parov got the machine out of its vast library of analysis. Left to its own resources, Deep Blue left itself with a passive position. Kas-parov sacrificed a pawn to obtain what looked like a complete grip, but seemed to lose confidence. Rather than continue his attack, he exchanged his bestplaced piece to regain his pawn, leaving himself with insufficient advantage to have any serious chance of a win. When Kasparov offered a draw. Deep Blue's team accepted with alacrity.

Before this match, Kasparov was known as a man of supreme self-confidence who never overlooked tactical resources. But the past two days have shown that he has been severely rattled by this

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Swiss savaged in US report on Nazi gold

Mary Dejevsky

The United States yesterday ac-cused Switzerland of having prolonged the Second World War and caused thousands of needless deaths by dealing in plundered gold on behalf of Nazi Germany. It also condemned post-war US administrations for not trying hard enough to recover gold that had belonged to European Jews.

The accusations were in a report, compiled by 11 US government agencies, which also confirmed Jewish suspicions that some "Nazi" gold held in Swiss banks contained jewellery, coins and dental fillings removed from concentrationcamp victims. These had been combined with gold looted from banks and melted to disguise

The report absolved Switzer-

knowingly accepting this "tainted" gold: "No proof has been found that the countries to which Germany traded gold robbed from persecutees knew

of the origin of such gold."

Definitive proof of the gold's origins was apparently obtained by the US three weeks ago from records of the Reichsbank that had been thought lost.

The report was commis-

sioned by President Bill Clinton and is the result of seven months' work. It was overseen by Stuart Eizenstadt, Under-Secretary for Commerce, who set out to establish what was known about Switzerland's dealings in plundered gold and to consider the role of neutral countries and the US during and after the war.

In a forceful introduction, Mr Eizenstadt said: "In the unique circumstances of World War Two, neutrality collided with land and other neutrals of morality: 100 often, being neu-

The report said that from 1939 to 1945 Germany transferred \$400m of gold (worth £2.4bn today) to the Swiss National Bank in Berne. Three-quarters of it was stored; the rest was sent to

third countries to pay for goods

and raw materials.

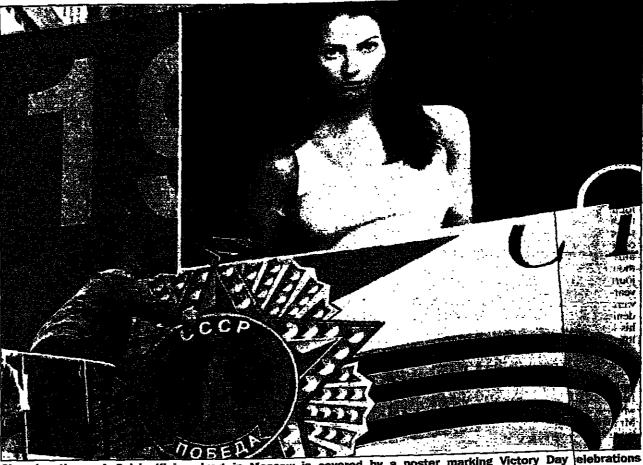
The report noted that many neutrals dealt with the Nazis for fear they would be invaded but it also cited the profit motive. It accused Switzerland and other neutral countries of ignoring "repeated Allied entreaties to end their dealings with Nazi Germany" and said that whatever their motivation, their action in continuing to trade "had the clear effect of supporting and prolonging Nazi Germany's capacity to wage war. Most inexplicable was the persistence of a 'business-as-usual' attitude

by Switzerland." On the attitude of the US at be done with the gold.

tral provided a pretext for the end of the war, the report avoiding moral considerations." the end of the war, the report spoke of a "demonstrable lack of senior-level support for a tough US negotiating position

> But it also quoted US records from the time as saying that if Sweden's attitude was "intransigent", the attitude of Switzerland was "intransigence cubed". The Swiss negotiating team was said to have used "legalistic positions to defend their every interest, regardless of the moral issues also at stake".

> The US released its report the day after the British Foreign Office published a report admitting some of the Nazi gold in the Bank of England may have come from camp victims. Publication, coinciding with the arrival of Robin Cook at the Foreign Office, was accompanied by an announcement that London would host a conference to determine what should



Changing times: A Calvin Klein advert in Moscow is covered by a poster marking Victory Day tomorrow celebrating the 52nd anniversary of Russia's Second World War defeat of Germany

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Perhaps it only needed someone to tell you how.

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Clinton visit to Mexico raises wave of protest

It was Mexico's equivalent of the Alamo. As American forces stormed Mexico City's Chapultepec Castle 150 years ago, a group of teenage Mexican mil-itary cadets made a last stand. The six last survivors, one of them wrapped in Mexico's tricolor flag, hurled themselves over the ramparts rather than surrender.

In a gesture of reconciliation a century and a half after the neighbours' three-year war. US President Bill Clinton laid a at least in the director of wreath on Tuesday at the casroes (Boy Heros) monument. The 1847 battle, and the

Mexican-American war in general - in which 50,000 Mexicans died and the nation lost what are now Southern California. Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and parts of Nevada, Utah and Colorado – left a deep wound on the Mexican psyche.

That was part of the reason several hundred Mexicans protested Mr Clinton's first official visit to his southern neighbour, burning an American flag and yelling "Yankee go home!" More specifically, they were angered by Mr Clinton's support for President Ernesto Zedillo's Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), a long-ruling monster most resembling the old Soviet communist par-ty but with little discernible ideology other than to cling to

Many Mexicans blame successive US governments for al-lowing the PRI to retain power for almost seven decades, traditionally through fraud, in the interests of regional stability but at the expense of democracy and human rights.

In a report last week, the US-

based group Human Rights Watch/Americas slammed the Mexican government and the PRI for what it called widespread violence against peasants and political opponents throughout southern Mexico. Also last week, 12 European tourists were expelled from Mexico simply for following a colourful anti-government protest march by Chol Indians in the state of Chiapas.

Mr Clinton attempted to offset criticism of pro-PRI bias through historic meetings - no US president had ever done so with two opposition leaders from both the left and the right of the PRL The two parties, the catholic and conservative National Action Party (PAN) and the social-democratic Party of President meets criticism of pias. towards rulng. party, writes

(PRD) have gained grund ir recent years as outside ressure forced the PRI to jettish, slowly and reluctantly, som of its old fraudulent habits ad edge democracy.

Phil Davisin

that Mr Clinton gave aly 15 minutes each to the oppsition leaders and said the PR's continuing control of muchof the press - including throug cash payments and perks to plitical reporters - would ensur that Mr Zedillo would benefimost

6 Tourists wire expelled simply for following in anti-government demonstration in Chiapas 🤊

from Mr Clinton's visit, his jest as President to any Latin Anerican nation.

It was no coincidence, thee analysis say, that Mr Zedlo wanted the US President in town before crucial congresional and local elections in Juy. For the first time, pundits ale predicting the PRI could lose s congressional majority. Also t stake is the new, elective por of Governor of Mexico City replacing the old system of band-picked (by the ruling pa ty) mayor - seen likely to be the second most powerful figure is the country
Mr Clinton and Mr Zedill

signed several agreements bu they were described variously by diplomats "pymbolic", "mod est" or "smal-bore". There was no sign of paggress on the key issues of trug trafficking through Mexico, Mexican anger at tougher Usimmigration laws or whether US anti-narcotics agents can citry weapons in Mexico.

Mr Clintor was yesterday moving on to an Jose, Costa Rica, for a sumuit with Central American leaders, followed by a Caribbean summit in Barba-



Kabila or die Zaire its

Laurent Kenta were y

€ We are to see Ngo, bu; Kaj $mu_{S_{1}}$ res. that we -

democracy.

his leopardskin hat ascending into an airolane. crowd of grim young men gathered to chant the name of Ladient Kabila, the rebel leader who has seized most of Zaire. Mr Mobutu, a remarkable egotist and survivor, may yet return to face Mr Kabila's guns, but he will get little thanks from his

and the Victory Day elebrate

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The purpose of Mr Mobutu's visit to Gabon is now at the centre of a massive propaganda battie to rival the shooting war in the east. Sceptics and opponents say that, with the rebels poised to take the capital, Mr Mobu-tu is merely using the conference as an excuse to get out while he can. Others, including the President's dwindling band of supporters, say he is flying to Libreville to seek military assistance from his fellow leaders.

told journalists that before he returns on Friday the President will obtain up to 20,000 soldiers from French-speaking countries like Gabon, Congo, Togo, Chad, the Central African Republic and even from Englishspeaking Nigeria. In the the jet rumbled off across the meantime, they say, their troops are driving back rebel forces at Kenge and Kikwit, respectively 250km and 400km to the east of the capital.

Mr Mobutu's generals have

According to the pro-gov-ernment newspaper Le Soft, West Africa's Francophone countries are worried about the "invasion" of Zaire by "Anglo-



are closely linked to Mr Kabila's Alliance of Democratic Forces. Nigeria, it says, merely wants to score points off South Africa's President Nelson Mandela - al-

legedly pro Kabila – for leading rious about seeking military criticism of the 1995 execution of writer Ken Saro-Wiwa. One diplomat from an influ-

aid, but would be unlikely to return to Zaire if he failed to get it; "I don't think he would like to be in Kinshasa if the rebels ential Western embassy said were here," he remarked.

And despite government claims of new victories in the field, reports from the east suggest that Mr Mobum's troops are still losing ground. A Western military observer and aid

sources said yesterday that reports from Kenge confirmed that the town was still in rebel hands despite a government bid to recapture it on Tuesday. Government forces have

Mobutu's motorcade en route to Kinshasa airport yesterday Photograph: Reuters

been driven back to Wambo river after heavy fighting, the mil-itary observer said. Several sources said that Mr Mobutu's force included several hundred fighters from Unita, the Augolan rebel movement. The government's own demoralised and undisciplined troops are believed to have played little part.

The Belgian wing of the med-ical aid agency Medecins Sans Frontières said that Catholic missionaries in Kenge were desperately trying to care for 127 people wounded in Tuesday's fighting. MSF's Dr Mit Philips said that the priests reported over 300 dead in the fighting, of whom 200 were civilians. The International Committee of the Red Cross confirmed yesterday that 10 of its local volunteers were killed as they tried to tend the dead and injured at Kenge, although the circumstances of their deaths remains unclear.

Kabila: saint or dictator? Zaire awaits its fate

When the rotund and smiley Laurent Desire Kabila, 58, humbered out of the bush to lead a rebel uprising in Eastern Zaire, even seasoned Africa watchers asked: Laurent who?

The avuncular Mr Kabila was ridiculed for his prepos-terous plan to seize Zaire from dictator President Mobutu Sese Seko, ruler for more than 30 ruinous years. Seven months later the former "nobody" controls all but the capital, Kinshasa, and a slither of Zaire.

On the street of Kinsh terday, crowds celebrated what they believe to be President Mobutu's permanent departure. It was Mr Kabila's name they chanted.

"No-one could be as bad as President Mobutu," said Jean-Luci an agricultural lecturer. Birt of that you cannot be certam: Opinions of Mr Kabila have fluctuated wildly in recent



Laurent Kabila: Yet to prove his democratic credentials

to see Mobutu go, but Kabila must realise sethat we want democracy 9

When he first popped up as the leader of the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire he was not : thought worthy of investigation. a: His rebellion was forecast to die as soon as Rwanda, the gibour, which backed Mr Kabila's : army, had achieved its aim - the vbreak-up of Rwandan Hutu -refugee camps just inside Zaire's border.

But it didn't die, and as the rethion has grown, so has infor-ation about its leader. In the arly 1960s Laurent Kabila was unior member of Zaire's Leftst, Pan-Africanist, Independent Movement led by Patrice Lumumba, who became the counby's first post-independence ime minister. Lumumba was mandered in 1961 and the CIA President Mobutu - then a or military figure - were rured to have been responsible. he rebel leader than spent decades in a state of quibut perpetual - revolution, olling a small district in the h-east of Zaire as head of rather obscure People's bila must understand that we

Mary Braid on the rebel leader who remains an enigma to most of his people

entire adult life nurturing a small revolutionary force and networking with a new breed of post-independent leaders like Yoweri Musedeni of Uganda and Paul Kagame of Rwanda, he would overthrow President

Mobutu. But much about the man remains a mystery. Mr Kabila has yet to give a confessional in-terview and discourages questions about his private life.

However, his past is a testament to persistence and a purity of sorts. In a country where few, if any, in the political classes can claim never to have collaborated with President Mobutu, Mr Kabila is a one off. He is an amiable fellow, but

his affability evaporates if his Maoist past is questioned or his family life probed. There are some signs of imperial, dictatorial tendencies. He has appointed relatives to key positions in rebel held territory. And re-education classes run by his forces for the citizens of captured towns have a rigid totalitarian feel.

Political opposition, as yet, is banned in rebel territory, and his new standing has already been undermined by accusation of refugee massacres by Kabila's forces.

Emma Bonino, EU Human Rights Commissioner, this week claimed that if Mr Kabila replaced President Mobutu this probably not be a change for the better. While few would make such a hasty judgement, diplo-matic opinion has been influ-

enced by another recent event.
On Sunday, the South
African President, Nelson Mandela, sandwiched between President Mobutu and Mr Kabila. at their first face-to-face meeting on the South African ship Outeriqua, described Mr Kabila as "a great son of Africa."

The real worth of that diplomatic statement should be judged by the fact that President Mandela afforded the same praise to President Mobutu.

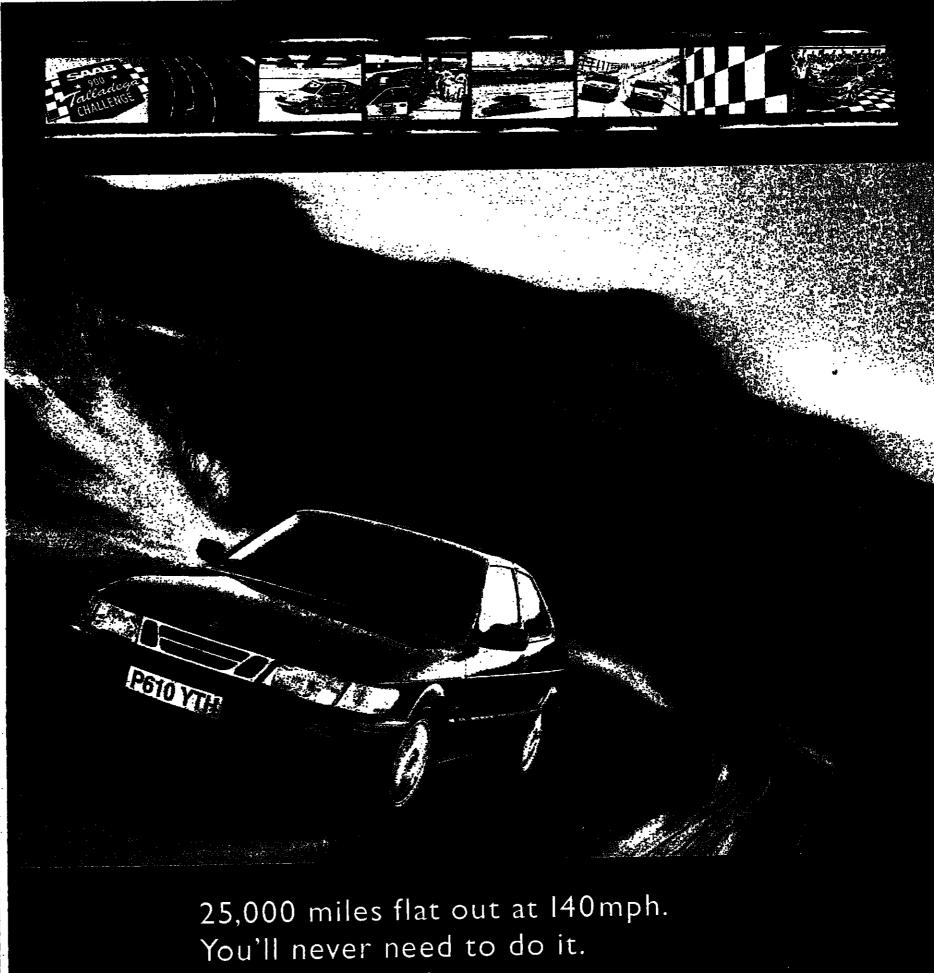
Behind the scenes opinions of Mr Kabila, who initially failed to show for talks, are more acid. "He's an arrogant son of a bitch," said one of the negotiation process backroom boys, of Kabila's endless stalling on the talks and his humiliation. not just of President Mobutu but President Mandela.

"He has really gone down in President Mandela's estima-It is a confusing picture for

beyond the

conventional

those about to welcome Mr Kabila as saviour. If he is the latest member of the Museveni-Kagame club -African leaders dedicated to social order, stability and honest government - democracy will not be a priority. That could kill the overwhelming goodwill that awaits him. We have been fighting for election since 1990." said Jean-Paul. "People are happy to see Mobutu go but Ka-



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Henry Hyde

obituaries / gazette Abe Feder

From the age of 14 to his death at 87, Abe Feder dedicated himself exclusively, obsessively, to illumination in a vast range of applications.

Feder was not only America's first modern "lighting designer" for the theatre, both experimental and Broadway, he also became the country's leading architectural and urban lighting consultant. Thus Feder's résumé runs in two distinct columns: hundreds of plays, musicals and operas; and a huge number of buildings. These lists reveal an impressive chronology and grandeur: My Fair Lady (1956) can be matched by the Rockefeller Center's RCA Building, or The Cradle Will Rock (1938) with Hartford Athenaeum - a parallel history of the most important theatre productions and buildings in mid-20thcentury America.

Feder was born in Milwaukee



in 1909 and "blew his first fuse" on a school production, having been inspired by a visiting magician, the Great Thurston. He attended the Carnegie Institute in Pittsburgh, where he studied architecture, which in practical effect is what he practised, albeit using electricity and candlepower rather than brick or concrete: his sensibility being always closer to that of sophisticated architect than stage back. Indeed, considering the range of buildings he worked with, on or in. and the integrity of his solutions for everyone from Gropius to Morris Lapidus. Feder could be seen as forerunner of those theoretical architects today investigating cybertechnology; electronics and other forms of "building"

As it was, while still an undergraduate Feder won praise from the French playwright Paul Claudel for the novel lighting of one of his plays and was soon working at the Goodman Theater in Chicago, moving to Manhattan in 1930. He was immediately hailed as a precocious star, at 20 the only independent lighting designer in America. His avant-garde cre-dentials were established with Gertrude Stein's "negro opera", Four Saints in Three Acts (1934), for which he consulted skin specialists on black pigmentation, resulting in more intense light for a luminous quality.

This technique came in useful when collaborating with Or-son Welles at the Federal Theater, including his "Black Macbell" (1936). As part of the theatre's "Living Newspaper Productions" Feder utilised radical techniques of projecting colour-slides and film footage in lieu of painted sets, perhaps influencing Citizen Kane. His most important Welles production was Dr Faustus (1937), where light first shaped the stage without benefit of sets, a job of such magnitude Feder moved into the theatre to live and was afterwards hospitalised with a breakdown.

Some of this may have been occasioned by his ferociously antagonistic relationship with Welles (amusingly documented in Simon Callow's recent biography) and Feder's own short temper. Now known as "Hondini of the Switchboard", Feder became lighting and technical director of all Federal Theater productions, some 200

including landmarks such as Nazimova's *Hedda Gabler* (1937). In the Second World War Serjeant Feder toured with Winged Victory and subsequently lit countless Broadway shows from The Boyfriend (1953) and My Fair Lady (1956) to Camelot (1960). The latter also resulted in a ground-breaking court case awarding him \$500 damages for the (unauthorised) British version of his lighting plan, an important precedent for the integrity of theatrical lighting. in the process revealing that Feder was paid almost twice Cecil Beaton's set fee.

"Theatre is the most wonderful training possible for this designer: born Milwaukee, Wisprofession, but how can you get consin 27 June 1909; twice marexcited about a 50-foot stage af- ried; died New York 24 April 1997.

ter you've lit a 50-storey building?" Feder commented of his architectural commissions, spearheading the post-war discovery of public lighting. From the United Nations, inside St Patrick's Cathedral, to a terminal at JFK airport, the Bronx Zoo, even Buckminster Fuller's first geodesic dome, Feder was always ready to "Push back the

darkness!" - Feder's slogan.
For the Rockefeller he used
50 million lumens - the approximate output of 42,000 75watt bulbs - from 342 tightly focused lamps hidden on nine buildings to cast no shadow. lamps built to order by General Electric, including which chemicals he wanted in the vapours. For the Pan Am building he deployed 206 incandes-cent bulbs with pencil-like beams mounted on the surrounding roofs, proving his motto: "Lighting is the only de-sign material that can fill space without blocking it."

In everything from the 1949 Gimbels corset department to luxury Transatlantic liners, Otto Preminger's New York residence, the gigantic Miami Lincoln Mall or brass mesh and fluorescents to simulate simlight in his own kitchen, Feder was both technical, practical expert and abstract metaphysician. He was directly responsible for 10 different new types of lightbulbs and a column in Women's Wear Daily encouraging retail trade through lighting, but always emphasised: Thinking in light is something essentially independent from the physical means of carrying out those ideas."

This was a man who had to turn down lighting Piazza San Marco in Venice and the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem for lack of local resources and could not eat under ugly restaurant lighting, his passion and expertise knowing no boundaries of scale or curiosity. "Lighting By Feder". the famous trademark name, carries on, and how appropriate that Abe Feder's death should have been honoured by the early extinction of the lights at both the Rockefeller Center and the Empire State Building.

Adrian Dannatt Abraham Hyman Feder, lighting



(the money came from the Equitable Life insurance company, which an ancestor had

Henry Hyde became a leading United States spymaster in the war against Hitler's Germany:

fittingly for a Paris-born American, his principal field of activity

His parents were wealthy

lay in France.

founded), yet also cultivated. They preferred Paris at the tail end of the helle epoque to the America of Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson. They staved on through the Great War, early in which he was born. His mother's salon at Versailles had visitors as various as Foch. Ravel and Marie Laurençin. Hyde got an international ed-

ucation, at the Collège de Nor-mandie in France, Chillon in Switzerland and Bonn in Germany as well as Charterhouse and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he read History in G.M. Trevelyan's heyday. Then he went to Harvard to read Law. and moved on to practise it in New York.

A fellow lawyer, Alan Dulles John Foster Dulles's brother picked him out to join the Office of Strategic Services. This was the American foreign secret service, formed in mid-1942 to cover both espionage and subversion: direct ancestor of today's CIA. OSS posted him, viewing his fluent French and German, to intelligence duties in newly conquered Algiers, where he carved himself out a niche of his own.

He organised a group of spies, codenamed "Penny Farthing", to report on German troop locations and movements in southern France; viewing the eventual landing on the Riviera coast that was to form part of the Allied invasion of western Europe. The group ranged from French aristocrats who had been family friends to railway clerks, local govern-ment officials, and an ardent anarchist codenamed "Toto". 'Toto" was among several whom the Germans caught; in the end, he was overrun by friendly forces while awaiting execution in Mantluc prison in Lyons, for the Riviera landing succeeded.

Operation "Anvil", as it was at first known, was to have been simultaneous with operation "Neptune", the landing on the west Normandy beaches; but there were not enough

landing craft to mount both at

once. "Neptune", the assault pliab of "Overlord", went in on 5 June 1944; the surviving landing craft then went round to the

Mediterranean and mounted

"Anvil" - renamed Dragoon

for which D-day was 15 August. "Dragoon" was much less expensive in men than "Nep" tune" had been; partly because Hitler for once ordered a retreat, partly also because "Penny Farthing" had provided so extraordinarily complete a picture of German dispositions. which the Allies were able to match and counter exactly. As Arthur Funk has explained in his luminous book Hidden Ally (1992), French resistance provided a much larger bonus than the planning staffs had foreseen. "Penny Farthing" contributed a substantial slab of this bonus, rivalling the contribution of Marie-Madeleine Fourcade's huge "Alliance" network which worked to MI6 in London.

Moreoever, as far back as February 1944 it had been a "Penny Farthing" agent who spotted, earlier than anyone else, that the Second SS Panzer Division which had been fighting in Russia had retired to south-west France to refit. As, for the moment, it had no tanks, Bletchley (to the ultrasecret products of which Hyde was not then privy) could not pick it up from its routine tank strength returns. Once it had been located, steps could be taken to delay its move elsewhere. After its tanks arrived, two schoolgirl sisters siphoned off the oil in many tank transporters' axles, replacing it with SOE's abrasive grease, and thus helped cause a vital fortnight's delay in the division's move to Normandy in June 1944.

Hyde was promoted to replace Dulles in Bern as head of OSS's north-west European operations, and did not return to New York until 1947. He then moved to a further career. spanning more than four decades, as an internatonal lawyer. He never forgot his French friends, and remained a pillar of Franco-American friendship.

M. R. D. Foot

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Henry Hyde, spy and lawyer: born Paris 31 October 1915: twice married (two daughters): died New York 5 April 1997.

Hans-Hubert Schönzeler

The conductor and musicologist Hans-Hubert Schönzeler was an engagingiy paradoxical man and he would have been tickled by the notion that an important Bruckner exponent and scholar was specially mourned among the membership of the Savage Club, that louche but friendly fraternity of musicians, actors and artists whose company he so much enjoyed. Indeed, I was to have been his guest at a dinner there six days before he died.

Schönzeler, who was an only child, was born in Leipzig to parents neither of whom was a professional musician. He took up the violin at the age of five and this instrument always had a prime place in his affections. Sent to Brussels by his father who was not Jewish, but who strongly opposed the Nazi regime - so as to avoid contact with Hitler Youth, he returned to Germany in 1938. A year later, first his father, then he and his mother, emigrated to Australia where, on the outbreak of the Second World War, his father was interned.

Schönzeler went to Sydney Boys High School, but after two years - and quite irrationally he and his mother were also interned. During the four years of his incarceration he continued to study the violin, music theory and, with a former di-

Choir, conducting. Released in 1946, he became a naturalised Australian - and hence a British subject - the following year. At the New South Wales State Conservatorium he studied with Eugene Goossens, a musician for whom he retained the warmest admiration, and began to direct student orchestras and choirs. But it was clear that he needed to be in Europe and so, with the help of Rafael Kubelik, he settled in London in 1950, securing a job with Eulenburg Edition, of which he later became a director. From 1957 to 1962 he led the 20th Century Ensemble.

Adrian Boult and Wilhelm Furtwangler – the 10th anniversary of whose death was marked by a concert which Schönzeler conducted at the Royal Albert Hall in 1964 - encouraged him and he was a successful participant in a number of important Conductor's Courses, among them the Paris Conservatoire and the Accademia Chigiana.

Schönzeler worked as a freelance all over the world and guested with a majority of the British orchestras. His repertoire was catholic (he premiered new works in Britain, Germany and Australia) but his special strengths lay in the German romantics, notably Bruck-

ner. For the BBC he gave the world premiere of the first version of the Eighth Symphony (in 1973) and for the Adelaide Festival the world premiere of the authentic first version of the Third Symphony (in 1978). He had already in 1970 published an authoritative book on the composer and he was later honoured the Bruckner Society of

> Bruckner Society, Vienna, Another of Schonzeler's specialities was the music of Dvorak; he visited Prague both for research and for recordings of Janacek and Martinu. In 1974 he appeared at the Prague Spring Festival and, in 1975, was made an honorary member of



Iliness curtailed Schönzeler's career but he remained possionately interested in music and musicians: he was not above some cheerful gossip and a visit to his Chelsea home was always stimulating, occasionally bibulous. He was pugnaciously argumentative, but his sometimes outrageous dislikes were generally tempered with a beady humour. He idolised America and the International Furtwangler and it was hard work to persuade him to change his mind about one's own he-

roes. I failed lamentably where the admirable Gunter Wand was concerned. But we were generally of one mind about the charlatans and show-offs. Schönzeler was hospitable and generous, as was his devoted the Antonin Dvorak Society.

wife, Wilhelmina ("Helmi"). For some years he had supported the Musicians Benevolent Fund in various ways, donating - for auction - his own violin and the complete Urtext of Hugo Wolf. He was a man of impressive musical and personal integrity. German by birth, he became an estimable Englishman: his last recording was of music by Edmund Rubbra.

Robert Ponsonby Hans-Huben Schönzeler, conductor and musicologist: born

A good teacher is knowledgeable, lucid, and approachable, but a great teacher inspires. Geoffrey Midgley was a great as well as a good teacher, who had an enormous influence on the several generations of students who passed through the Philosophy Department at

Midgley's engagement with

philosophy was both immediate and intense. Most lecturers rehearse doctrines and arguments to their audience but Geoff Midgley engaged in philosophical thought in front of our eyes. Bounding into the lecture theatre with an air of boyish enthusiasm, longish white locks bobbing, no notes in sight, he would plunge into some philosophical problem without preliminaries. What made it so gripping for the audience was the freshness of the performance. There was no feeling of going over old ground, of retelling a tale often told before; each lecture was for Midgley a new experience, a fresh attempt to get to grips with

something which puzzled him. Midgley had won a classical scholarship to Oxford but the Second World War intervened, and, after a four-year spell as a radar boffin in the RAF, he completed the PPE course in two years at New College, un-

indicial review.

Lord Woolf MR said that the is-

sue was whether the Home Sec-

retary's decision to issue a

certificate under section 2(2) of

the Asylum and Immigration

Act 1996, to the effect that the

applicant should be returned

immediately to France where

her claim to asylum would be

heard, was one to which he was

The Home Secretary ac-

cepted that because of the

time which had clapsed since

the applicant's arrival in this

country she could not be re-

moved until her application

entitled to come.

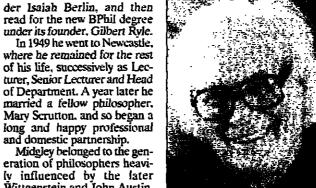
Geoffrey Midgley der Isaiah Berlin, and then read for the new BPhil degree under its founder, Gilbert Rvle.

In 1949 he went to Newcastle, where he remained for the rest of his life, successively as Lecturer, Senior Lecturer and Head of Department. A year later he married a fellow philosopher. Newcastle University. Mary Scrutton, and so began a

> Midgley belonged to the generation of philosophers heaviinfluenced by the later Wittgenstein and John Austin, and published two long seminal papers (in 1955 and 1959) on the crucial concept of a linguistic rule. Although deeply interested in logic and philosophy of language he never accepted the then fashionable doctrine that the urge to philosophise was the product of linguistic confusion. On the contrary, he believed that the central questions of philosophy were both real and important; no one who had been taught by him would ever think that philosophy was just a game with words. For him philosophy and life were continuous; every issue had a philosophical angle, and philosophical thought was to be

and domestic partnership.

translated into action. Midgley published nothing after those first two papers (although often urged to do so by



Midgley: boylsh glee

his students). He devoted himself instead to making the department a model of what a philosophy department should be: a centre of uninhibited intellectual enquiry and ceaseless discussion.

Tutorials were conducted in his room, which was dominated by a large table, on which assorted items, reflecting his many interests, were piled to an alarming height: not only books, notes, and letters, but sheet music and sometimes bits of musical instruments (he was a fine oboe player). He sat in an enormous padded chair. From time to time he would leap up and plunge into the tottering edifice on his table, to pull out some plum: a quotation, a paragraph

from a book, a letter from someone. He would then thrust the item back into the pile when he had finished with it.

He would adopt a similar approach to the contents of his own mind, searching for some gem which would illuminate the whole discussion and producing it triumphantly for our edification. Often one thought would lead to another, on one occasion he became completely engrossed in his train of thought which lasted for the whole tutorial. Glancing at his watch, Midgley exclaimed: "You always get more than you bargained for", and laughed with boyish glee, kicking his legs in the air and bouncing up and down alarmingly in his chair.

He retained a childlike wonder and a strong sense of the incongruous and of the absurd. He was intolerant only of pomposity and stuffiness, and he showed that one can be utterly serious while roaring with laughter at the same time.

David McNaughten

Geoffrey Charles John Midgley; philosopher: born Ilford, Essex 14. June 1921: Lecturer and Senior. Lecturer, Department of Philosophy, Newcasile University 1949-86, Head of Department 1982-86; married 1950 Mary Scrutton (three sons); died Newcastle 16 April 1997.

Births. Marriages & Deaths

BIRTHS

CONDER: On 29 April to Sussa (aée Omran) and Charles, a son, Oliver Reignier, a brother for Willam and

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Changing of the Guard

Birthdays

Sir David Attenborough, broadcaster and naturalist, 71; Mr Peter Benchley, author, 57; Lord Blyth of Rowington, chief executive and deputy chairman, Boots Company, 57; Mr Jack Charlton, football manager, 62; Dr Sir Anthony Dawson. ager, 52; 57 Sr Anthony Dawson, former physician to the Queen, 69; Sir Ian Denholm, chairman, J. & J. Denholm, 70; Miss Viviana Du-rante, ballerina, 30; Mr Gary Glitter. rock performer, 53; Miss Heather Harper, soprano, 67; Lord Hoffmann, a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, 63; Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, a former Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, 72; Mr Norman Lamont, former Chancellor of the Exchequer, 55: The Right Rev Graham Leonard, former Bishop of London, 76; Dame Felic-Histop of London, /o; Lome restrict tott, operatic soprano, 50; Vice-Admiral Sir Neville Purvis, chief executive, British Standards Institu-tion, 61; Mr John Reid MP, 50; Mr Alastair Service, chairman, Wiltshire Health Authority, 64; Air Marshal Sir Michael Simmons, secretary, Council of Justice for Animals and Hi Slaughter Association, 60; Sir Philip Wilkinson, former deputy chairman, National Westminster Bank, 70.

Anniversaries

Births: Jean-Henri Dunant, founder of the Red Cross, 1828; Friedrich Au-Ms Pat Barber, Professor Tun Brighouse: Ms Rose Hilton; Ms Madelaine Hutchins: Ms Higust von Havek, economist, 1899. Deaths: John Stuart Mill, political,

Gauguin, painter, 1903. On this day: John Osborne's play Look Back in Anger was first performed, 1956. To-Day of St Acacius or Agathus, St Benedict II, pope, St Boniface IV, pope, St Desideratus or Desire of Bourges, St Gibnian, St Canaca, St Bourges, St Gibrian, St Otger, St Pe-ter of Tarentaise, St Plecheim, St Vic-

Luncheons The Queen

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh held a lunch party at Buck-ingham Palace yesterday. The guests

were:

Ms. Judy McKnight (General Secretary, National Association of Probation Officers), Professor Sarah Springman (Professor of Geovechnical Engineering, Institute for Geovechnical Engineering, Institute for Geovechnical Fourier), Judich Baker (chairman, Scottsh and Newenstel pic), Mr Michael Kenny (Iresasurer, Royal Academy), Professor John Lawton (Director, National Environment Research Council Centre for Propulation Biology), Professor Robert O'Nelli (Chichele Professor of History of Wat, Oxford University), Vice-Admiral Sir Jonathan Tol (Depthy Commander Fleet).

Arts Council of England The Earl of Gowrie, Chairman, and Mary Allen, Secretary General of the Arts Council of England, yesterday hosted a luncheon at the Arts Council, 14 Great Peter Street, London SW1. Also present were:

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, ex parte Canbolat; Court of Appeal (Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord

Leipzie 22 June 1925; married; died London 30 April 1997.

Justice Evans and Lord Justice Schiemann) 30 April 1997 When considering an applica-

tion by an asylum seeker from a "safe country", the Home Secretary should assure himself that, if returned to that safe country, there would be no real risk that the asylum seeker would be sent to another country otherwise than in accordance with the 1951 Geneva Convention.

The Court of Appeal affirmed the Divisional Court's dismissal of an application for judicial review of the Home Secretary's decision, authorising the removal of the applicant from the United Kingdom to

The applicant, a Turkish citizen of Kurdish origin, arrived in the United Kingdom on 31 August 1996 from Paris and claimed political asylum. She was granted temporary leave to

Home Secretary could return asylum seeker to France LAW REPORT

S May 1997

meant that her appeal was purficer's decision as to her resued as a matter of principle. moval was stayed pending the Among those to whom the outcome of her application for Asylum and Immigration Act Manju S. Gill and Asoka Dias (Bluett 1996 applied were asylum seekers from a "safe country", which & Co, Edmonton) for the applicant; David Pannick QC and Mark Shaw was a country other than that (Treasury Solicitor) for the Home where the asylum seeker feared

persecution They could be returned to the safe country subject to the important proviso that it was not one where they would be persecuted, or from which they would be returned to the coun try where they alleged he would be persecuted, without the merits of their asylum claim being properly investigated, or breach of the Geneva

onvention. Special adjudicators, when determining appeals prior to the removal of their jurisdiction by the 1996 Act, had indicated that they were not satisfied that France could be treated as a for asylum was heard and de- safe country. remined on its ments. That The Home Secretary was

under an obligation to satisfy himself that either those decisions of special adjudicators were in his opinion wrong, or that the position in France had since changed for the better.

It was submitted on behalf of the Home Secretary that in considering an application for asylum he was entitled to ask himself whether, in his opinion, there was a reasonable degree of likelihood that France would send the appellant to Turkey otherwise than in accordance with the Convention. The Divisional Court appeared to have accepted that submission.

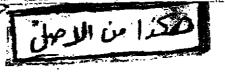
Their Lordships did not agree. That submission involved a lower threshold than that laid down by the 1996 Act. What was required was that there should be "no real risk that the asylum seeker would be sent to another country otherwise than in accordance with the Convention". The unpredictability of human hehaviour, or the comote possibility of changes in administrative law or procedures which there was no reason to anticipate, would not be a real risk.

It was for the Home Secretary to evaluate the material. If he could properly have come to the decision which he did on that material then the court could not interfere.

Like the Divisional Court their Lordships had carefully considered all the material placed before them. They understood the concerns of the special adjudicators. However, there was a difference between the decisions of the special adjudicators and the responsibilities of the court. The special adjudicators, on an appeal considered the material which was before them and made their own judgment as to the merits. The court's role was limited to that of review.

Approaching the question thus, it could not be said that the Home Secretary had not been entitled to come to the opinion that he did.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister



A leadership battle lost before it's fought

or a party that has lately been making such a song and dance about the strength of the nation state and the sterling qualities of our House of Commons. Tory MPs have organised a singularly unimpressive beauty contest for their party leadership. For a start, they cannot even muster a woman to stand, and so, at least symbolically, offer a token of wider appeal. Why didn't someone persuade Gillian Shephard at least to put a marker down? The problem is what the Americans might call leadership-lite: the announced candidates are mostly second-rate, and some demonstrably lack the appurtenances of political success in a media age. This is Lady Thatcher's legacy, the gift to her party of someone who would tolerate only yes-men. The figures in her Cabinet with any weight, such as Lords Howe and Lawson, were squeezed out. The result is this week's display of Tory bonsai.

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PARTER BEFORE

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Only Tory MPs have the franchise and. to judge from what they are saying today, they are going to make their decision in about equal proportions on the basis of venom, revenge and the prospect of preferment. Talk about a shell-shocked electorate: First World War historians should give them a psychological goingover. John Major could have stayed on for a month or two, allowing a moment for sest and recovery: instead he has sent his party exhausted into a contest in which, to date, no candidate has had the

courage or perspicacity to state the real reasons why the party lost, or come up with a clear case for believing in its imminent revival.

There is of course a wider significance to this contest, and it goes beyond the constitutional fact that the Tories are the principal opposition to Labour and as such have a public responsibility to get their act together. It is that sooner or later, we believe, the United Kingdom will have to come to terms with its membership of a confederation of European states. That does not necessarily mean joining the Single Currency in 1999, nor does it mean signing up to the integrationist project advanced by Chancellor Kohl. It does mean playing the negotiating game, winning friends and allies among the other states, thinking positively about the architecture as well as - don't we all like to forget them - considering the timing and sequence of bids to join the European Union by the former Communist countries of Eastern

There is no way this Tory leadership election will "solve" the European question; but it could be used to set the Conservative Party on the way towards accepting that there is no sensible afternative for this country but to tread the path of co-operation within a pan-European organisation committed to a lot more than free trade. Thus the latterday Poujadism of John Redwood would merely prolong the party's agony. Pierre



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Poujade was not an intellectual; John Redwood bears the badge of All Souls College, Oxford, which says he is. But Redwoodism seems of late to have turned into a mishmash of populist concern for cottage hospitals, and anti-Europeanism of head-banging intensity. Besides his narrow nationalism, Peter Lilley is a player of small stature - and that does not refer to his physical size. Stephen Dorrell has flip-flopped too often to be credible: he is coming from nowhere in particular, and should be regarded for the time being as going nowhere, either. The Hague lad is charming, intelligent, amicable, compe-

tent but (judge from the episode of the champagne pact with Michael Howard) in need of longer schooling in the wicked arts of politics before assuming

the heavy mantle of leadership. That leaves only two middleweights: Howard vs Clarke. Neither are great thinkers. Neither will furnish a Tamworth manifesto for the 21st century, adapting and modernising Conservative belief and party practice. Michael Howard's stewardship of the Home Office has not only been practically ineffective (crime levels seem to have been remarkably unchanged by locking up huge num-bers); he has had little useful to say about

society beyond ritual calls for discipline; family and order.

The recent Chancellor was a touch jejune in his defence of political discre-tion in monetary policy the other day. But he is a formidable political opera-tor and a strong parliamentary per-former with stacks of bloksh charm. Not a grand figure, or a brilliant one, but certainly a man with the kind of toughness of mind that the next party leader will need to pull the Tory clan back together.

And he is, among this thin band, the only candidate with a forthrightly positive position on Europe. Here the per-sona which Kenneth Clarke adopts - the man from Nottingham with his finger on the pulse of manufacturing and services in the heart of England - comes into its own. In him the company director, the man with a pint in his fist in a West Bridgford pub, becomes pro-Europe. That Clarke has not trimmed, has not succumbed to the atavism that has swept through his party of late (like Messrs Hague and Dorrell), is also to his credit. Whether Michael Howard really believes in his little Englandism is beside the point. He has deliberately and openly made himself a Euro-sceptic and, judging by his election result in the Folkestone constituency, there are many more of these holed up in large numbers behind the acacia bushes.

So Kenneth Clarke should win, because he is the only candidate who

the phenomenon of crime in our kind of requires his party to face the inevitable now. However, Tory MPs are probably incapable of taking note of this sage advice, and will instead elect either a sceptically entrapped Howard, or a small and inconsequential political figure. In that case Mr Clarke can and must keep up the good fight, safe in the knowledge that the victor in this present election will only be a transitional figure. Some day, doubtless after much further blood-letting, the Conservatives will return to the modern world.

Classics are so elastic

Ticholas Kenyon, controller of BBC Radio 3, takes a swipe at Lord Lloyd Webber, but elevates Lennon and McCartney to the classical canon. Lots of humphing and garumphing about that, no doubt. But there is no harm in challenging our definition of what constitutes "classical" music. Sure, the Beatles have been continuously loved and responded to for decades - but is longevity enough? Abba have been loved for a long time, too (humph). Pierre Boulez and Sir Harrison Birtwistle have not, by many, but they are supposedly "classical". We hope Mr Kenyon merely means that all these definitions are elastically by-the-by.

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

PR: some pointers for the puzzled

Sir. The problem with discussion on proportional representation is that most people do not carry in their minds what the various possibilities are. Hence, potentially

hae with the proportion of votes contact with one's MP other than through the ballot box. On a number of occasions I have been matters directly to my MP of the response, and sometimes feeling that I have managed to influence

evenis.
My continental friends find it a novel idea, and many of them would like a comparable facility. There is a sense that under their current system, MPs are just an abstraction - un-get-at-able. Neither is there room at elections for the colourful or innovative independents we have here: just the grey duliness of party lists, to be picked up outside the polling station, carried in, and dumped into the ballot box. So, what system is it that approximates to the best of both worlds? JOHN TIPPLER

one gets what they voted for", againsi proportional

benefits of constituency-based representation with the advantage of better reflecting the will of the whole electorate. Is it not better to lave a government elected by majority, even if a small proportion of the electorate voted for them as second preference, than one

reciple?
There are disadvantages with preferential voting: it does favour parties which occupy the middle ground, and can on occasion elevate the third runner to first when second preferences need to be counted. It also takes far longer to count. But it allows people to vote with their conscience, and dramatically reduces the "wasted

vote". Thope that, when a referendum is but to the people on electronal reform, preferential voting is given a fair chance alongside PR and the current system, and that the people, once aware of its existence and hise already in other advanced defriberacies, will support it. DOMINIC MESSENGER

Sir: John Diamond envisages a partiament made up of 285 Labour MPs, 201 Tories and 165 Liberals. and wonders which two-party coalition could claim a mandate to fule, and what would they take for

These issues cannot be avoided under PR, but when we introduce PR to Britain the parties will have o explain their views on commonration as part of their calinpaign. Only those who stand ior election with the attitude that they will obtain an absolute majority are going to disappoint

minécessary fears may exist. "For my part, while I would like to

see a distribution of seats more in east, I do not wish to see what I have experienced in another European country: the impossibility of having able to represent minority interest time, usually getting a sympathetic

Spatding, Lincolnshire

Sin: John Diamond ("Under PR no Letters 7 May) makes a strong case representation. He adds that "firstpasi-the-post is, indeed, imperfect, but it is the least imperfect of all the options".
All the options? What about

preferential voting (also known as the alternative vote)? It retains the elected by only 44 per cent of the

Hörsham, West Sussex

a manifesto?

their voters by agreeing to share

power, but I doubt that any party capable of denying political reality to that extent will attract many

reason to limit the possibilities to the smallest possible coalitions that can assert a majority. If the seats fall according to Mr Diamond's scenario the best solution is a three-way coalition government. That would maximise the number of laws that could be passed with the support of at least 56 per cent of the voters. When was the last time first-past-the-post gave such a democratic result? MARK BASSETT New Malden, Surrey

Sir: 44.4 per cent of voters may, as John Diamond tells us, have got the government they voted for - but that doesn't mean they got the government they wanted. More voters than ever were driven by frustration to vote tactically for the least unacceptable candidate with a chance of winning.

Under the current system any claim of a mandate is unfounded, not only because the winning party doesn't have a majority of votes cast but also because there is no way of knowing how many of those it did get were tactical or negative. Under a PR system it will be possible to know for the first time what the British people really want. BRIAN FEWSTER Leicester 🗀

Sir: The reinvigorated debate on proportional representation is music to the ears of many. However, although PR may be necessary, it alone is not sufficient

to ensure fair and just elections. The present dependence of parties on the ability to raise huge molded to top to the engine

As for the mandate, there is no

sums of money to fight election campaigns ensures that the backing of unions, big business, or extremely wealthy individuals is essential. The two main parties are each to a greater or lesser extent beholden to their corporate

backers. Both their integrity and

independence is compromised. I find the funding of the Tory party particularly galling. Money that should be going into share dividends to fund my pension and my mortgage endowment policy is instead being diverted to support a political party that I am strongly opposed to. Reform to the funding of political parties is as necessary as reform to the voting system if future elections are to be fair and just to everyone. JON MARKS Ruislip, Middlesex

Self's philosophy Sir: John Walsh (Magazine, 3 May) thinks that Will Self "studied PPE by mistake", and that he's now trying to write a series of Eng Lit essays saying 'Is this good enough? Damn it, I should have done

English." As one of Will Self's philosophy tutors, I doubt this. The study of philosophy requires a great deal more imagination than the study of English literature, and I'd be surprised if Will Self-who wrote some thoroughly exotic essays -thought that he'd made the wrong

GALENSTRAWSON

Jesus College, Oxford

Blair's case for open government

Sir: The contents of the Queen's speech, to be settled on Thursday, will be subject to many competing claims. But among the strongest should be a Freedom of Information (FOI) Act, incorporating whistleblower protection. The case for it was put most emphatically by Tony Blair, speaking at the Campaign for Freedom of Information's annual awards in March 1996, when he described the legislation as "not some isolated constitutional reform" but a "change that is absolutely fundamental to how we see politics developing in this country". He added: The crucial question is does the

Government regard people's involvement in politics as being restricted to periodic elections? Or, does it regard itself as in some sense in a genuine partnership with people?... I don't believe that [an FOI Act's] impact would simply be in the pure matter of legislation ... It would also signal a culture change that would make a dramatic difference to the way that Britain is governed. The very fact of its introduction will signal a new relationship between government and people: a relationship which sees the public as legitimate stakeholders in the running of the country and sees election to serve the public as being

There is so much disaffection from politics, so much disillusion with it. and one of ... the reasons is that we live in a modern and a far better

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educated and far more open and far more assertive democracy and country and it's good that people feel in that way. The irony is that the system of government is about 50, 60, 70 years behind the actual feelings and sentiments of the broad majority of people. A Freedom of Information Act is not just important in itself. It is part of bringing our politics up to date, of letting politics catch up with the aspirations of people and delivering not just more open but more effective and efficient government for the

The case for immediate legislation could not be better put. MAURICE FRANKEL Director The Campaign for Freedom of Information London EC1

West must not loot Zaire anew

Sir: President Mobutu of Zaire seems about to exile himself for ever from the country he has bled dry since assuming power. Now is the time for the international debt agencies to show that humanitarian concerns and natural justice matter more to them than profit. The arch-thief Mobutu has

amassed a fortune estimated at \$5bn-\$6bn. This colossal amount is around the same as Zaire's national debt. Debt repayment is a burden on the whole of the South, but weighs particularly heavily on the poorest, and, according to the World Bank's own figures, the mass of Zaireans are the poorest of them

Will the Bank, and their partners the International Monetary Fund, forgive these stolen loans? Or will they force the incoming regime to continue to bleed Zaire's poor to repay the money stolen by Mobutu; a process akin to making the new owners of a house liable for the

debts of their predecessors?

If the IMF and World Bank continue with "business as usual" they will have forfeited all moral right to continue to act as the rich world's debt collectors. ANDREW WHITWORTH

Shaking with insincerity

Sir: One thing hasn't changed: the spectacle of British (like American) politicians looking away from the person they are shaking hands with. What gesture could be, and appear, more meaningless and

insincere? Perhaps Peter Mandelson could start his New Labour Government Integrated PR job with a training course on how to shake hands in

SARA CLARKE Hayfield, Derbyshire

Major's doom

Sir: Julius Caesar Act II Scene ii: When beggars die, there are no comets

The heavens themselves blaze forth the

death of princes. It was Hale-Bopp wot won it. ANGUS HENDERSON Cranleigh, Surrey

Abortion can be a loving solution

Sir: While I agree with much of Cardinal Hume's article ("A manifesto for moral and spiritual problems", 6 May), may I express my anger at his attempt to equate abortion today with slavery in the 19th century?

Slavery was immoral because it involved the capture, transportation and exploitation. often with great cruelty, of large numbers of unwilling people for the commercial advantage of relatively few. To the best of my knowledge there is no commercial organisation today which forcibly scizes women, carries them off. impregnates them and then aborts

their foetuses for the sake of profit. There must be few people who are genuinely "pro-abortion" in the sense that they would recommend that women experience abortion as a pastime, diversion or occupation. (It is probably the worst of all methods of birth-control.) There are many, like me, who accept that it is sometimes (in cases such as rape, foetal abnormality or acute social need) the best of a number of bad options.

May I, as an ordinary back-new Anglican, presume to remind Cardinal Hume that we are recommended to love the Lord, our God, with all our hearts, souls and minds? If we use our minds we will recognise that there are occasions in this imperfect world when accepting a distasteful option such as abortion is the most loving solution to a problem. I suggest that a Christian society would do all in its power to shield women from the need to seek abortions. (By promoting wider knowledge of contraception and responsibility in sexual activity.) It would certainly not condemn women who feel that they have no choice nor those who seek to help them. GEORGE GARNER Millway, Devon

Sir: Cardinal Basil Hume is right to point out that many of our economic and social problems have a moral dimension. A shared sense of mutual responsibility, respect for (all) life, and a stable and caring home environment for children are

goals we can all agree on. It is a pity, therefore, that he takes the opportunity to exercise the old dogmas on abortion and the shape of the family, rather than considering how, through social dialogue, we might work towards the creation of a new, shared morality and the development of public policies to support it. JONATHAN PINKNEY-BAIRD The Communitarian Forum Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk

House-training

Sir: Along with new members and new measures, may we hope for new manners in the House of Commons? Was it, perhaps, the sight of their elected representatives behaving like yobs in the House that turned so many of the young off voting? With more women, at last, in Parliament, may we hope for more civilised behaviour? Surely, with less shouting, more work would get done, and better. JANE AIKEN HODGE Lewes, East Sussex

Feeling good

Sir: I think I've got that elusive feelgood factor at last. ADRIAN PERRY London SE1



Men, women and children run for cover after the Enniskillen bomb in 1987 Right: Gerry Adams greets Photographs:

Now it's Blair's chance for peace in Ireland

Ireland remains strewn with obstacles and difficulties. But Labour's election victory may well have increased the chances of a revived peace process and another IRA ceaselire. Labour's success has not wrought the same overnight transformation in Northern Ireland as it has in London.

but there are, none the less, grounds for hoping it makes peace more likely. Things may not have changed utterly. but they have changed. When Tony Blair meets John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minis-

ter, today in London they will be looking at the familiar problems but also figuring how best to exploit what could well be a new window of opportunity.

The headline news in the election was that Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA, through its two leaders, Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness, had captured two of the 18 Northern Ireland seats. They will go to London to demand their 16 per cent share of the vote, a new record for Sinn Fein. There will doubtless be unseemly, though highly newsworthy, scenes when they arrive to demand entry to the Commons, and whatever happens a Sinn Fein office is to be opened in London. Sinn Fein rules mean that the two men cannot take their scats in the chamber of the House of Commons, but they will be pressing for use of the full facilities due to MPs. It remains to be seen how Parliament will deal with their demands.

The increased vote for Sinn Fein in Northern Ireland dismayed some observers, but there are growing pressures on all factions to get round the table, says David McKittrick

intriguing patterns which, taken together, may make eventual peace more likely. To begin with, nationalism - the nationalist vote, which is to say the combined vote for the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) and Sinn Fein - is increasing all the time. A decade and a half ago it was less than one-third of the total, but it has now reached 40 per cent. The basic landscape of Northern Ireland's demographic makeup is changing: numerically, nationalism is on the move.

The general assumption is that because the Sinn Fein vote rose, the SDLP vote fell. But this was not the case. The SDLP lost one of its four seats but its vote (apart from the was actually its biggest ever. This seems partly to be due to the increase in the Catholic population and partly to an reased nationalist turn-out.

The fact that Sinn Fein amassed 126,000 votes at a time when the IRA had ended its ceasefire and returned to terrorism is on the face of it a cause of dismay, but is worthy of closer examination. The Sinn Fein vote has a number of components. The largest is the traditional republican vote, which in 10

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Behind the headlines lie the early 1990s stayed steady at an average of 11 per cent.

But with last year's contest for seats in the Northern Ireland forum, and now in the election just past, the Sinn Fein vote rose to 15 and then 16 per cent. One element this time was a sheer tribal vote, particularly in Mid-Ulster, where nationalist determination to eject the Democratic Unionist Rev William McCrea, one of Ian Paisley's most vituperative lieutenants, took precedence over all other considerations. Another component is a

new-found republican ability Britain was choking up the transto mobilise previous non-voters, and in particular younger voters, a group other parties have trouble reaching. Many younger people are not only voting but working for Sinn Fein. One of Martin McGuinness's key election workers, for example, was Paul Henry, who at 27 is studying for an advanced diploma in management for the community and voluntary sector. According to Henry: "In recent times we are

getting a large number of graduates among our cumainn (branch) membership. It's young people seeing education as power.

Another factor behind the Sinn Fein increase was a straight elections from the early 1980s to peace vote - some thousands of

voters supporting them in the hope of encouraging them along a political and non-violent path. A few of these are natural SDLP supporters, while rather more are non-violent republicans previously alienated by

accept the bona fides of Adams and McGuinness. The republicans fought the election on a platform of both war and peace. In Belfast, Sinn Fein continued to appropriate the word "peace", plastering it all over their election literature while simultaneously the IRA in

port systems with bomb threats.

IRA violence but who now

his twin-track approach may have been an electoral attempt to unite doves and hawks: no one knows enough about the inner workings of the collective republican brain to say for sure. One thing, however, is certain enough: there is a clear consensus in the broader republican family that the "armed struggle" almost run its course.

That feeling was evident during the 1994-96 ceasefire and, anything, has grown since then. Scarcely anyone voting for Sinn Fein did so to urge the IRA to fight on indefinitely. Rather, the overwhelming sense is that the IRA's tole is to secure Sinn Fein's entry into talks on the most advantageous terms possible.

The breakdown of the last ceasefire has persuaded many in Britain, the Republic and within Unionism that all the talk of peace was sheet hypocrisy, and that Adams and his associates were either insincere or unable to deliver in the face of IRA hardliners. The most telling argument against this is that if Sinn Fein have been simply deceiving and cheating, they have successfully deceived and cheated their own supporters.

In doing so, they have imbued their own community with a belief that an indefinite terrorist campaign is fruitless, and in doing so they have seriously weakened the capacity of the IRA to maintain its long war of shootings and bombings.

There have been so many faise dawns about new ceasefires, that it might be said that everyone is suffering from expectation fatigue. Yet within republicanism itself the expectation of new peace moves is so strong that it is coming close to imposing an imperative on the IRA. Undue delay would also increase the growing sense of exasperation with the republicans which is already very visible in both the Irish Republic and the United States.

Republican supporters are, it hardly needs saying, both highly politicised and highly tolerant of the use of violence. But the tacit understanding now is that the further use of violence should be aimed at getting to the conference table rather than resuming an interminable and very obviously unwinnable war.

The IRA could not ignore this sentiment for ever, but the political diary for the next few months is fairly crowded, and few would be surprised if no new ceasefire arrived before the autumn. According to one republican activist: "We contested the election on a new opportunity for peace but it's not peace at any price, it's peace at an honourable price. Our voters understand that."

Northern Ireland local coun-

cil elections take place later this month, followed almost certainly by a general election in the republic. Early July brings the symbolic Drumcree march. with the possibility of a re-run of last year's bitter confrontations. Here there is always the chance that more acts of IRA violence will further sour the atmosphere. There are, in other words, many points at which the peace train could be derailed.

The election has also brought important changes on the Unionist side. In last year's forum election Paisley was, to coin a phrase, in the ascendancy. But now his loss of William McCrea, coupled with

terms of Commons seats Trimble has advanced from 9-3 to

Locally his party has pulled ahead of Paisley, but it too has to come to terms with the fact that it has lost its previously piyotal position at Westminster. In his last year in office, and with a vanishing majority, John Major delivered a series of concessions to Trimble. Those

days are gone. From now on it will not be Trimble pressurising the Goverament, but the Government pressuring Trimble. The multiparty political talks, which dragged on so unproductively for so many months, are due to resume in Belfast on 3 June, and when they do the Ulster Unionists will come under heavy pressure to move to break the logiam.

The argument will be that with Paisley's fortunes in apparent decline. Trimble can afford to be more adventurous. Of course, then there is Drumcree a month later, when no one really knows what will happen. There will be uncertainty as to

the success of David Trimble's whether another IRA ceasefire rival Unionist party in picking is in the offing, and much up another seat, means that in debate on whether any new end to the violence is for real.

> ealing with all this will provide a crucial test of Trimble's leadership, If. for example, he can establish some moral authority then Unionism would be well placed to make a whole new start; but if Drumcree is another fiasco, Unionism could well lose out. Labour's gigantic majority

neans that Tony Blair and Marjorie Mowlam, his Northern Ireland Secretary, assume responsibility for Northern Ireland with both great power and great moral authority. In practical terms Mowlam is bound, like Peter Brooke and Sir Patrick Maybew before her to begin by pursuing an approach with three facets.

One will be crisis-management, most immediately in the run-up to Drumcree and also in coping with any serious outbreaks of violence from either the IRA or the loyalists. The second will be in working the inter-party talks, to see whether she can produce movement which eluded Mayhew. The

third will be in exploring a new peace process with the republicans, to see whether another ceasefire is possible.

Given this, Gerry Adams and David Trimble must presently be musing in their very different ways, on pretty much the same question: whether this is the time to make a move which will seize the initiative for their party and convince Labour that they are the side to concentrate on.

The three elements are all intertwined and will impact on each other. A pessimist can quite easily sketch out a scenario in which a bad Drumcree, continuing deadlock in the talks, an IRA atrocity and lovalist retaliation lead to the virtual collapse of hope. An optimist can point to the new possibilities created by the election: a strong government which skilfully manages Drumcree, an emboldened Trimble and a new IRA ceasefire.

Either scenario is possible. but the very fact that a path for improvement exists will be enough to give fresh heart to those who, of late, have scarcely dared hope that peace was still



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Your starter for 10: who wrote this opening?

Tonce had the duty of setting a Christmas quiz in Punch magazine, which was not easy because, as someone once said, everyone has a good novel and 10 good quiz questions hidden away inside them (actually, I think it was me that said it) and 10 good questions is not enough for a good quiz. But one of the questions I devised was good, because it gave the openings of famous books and asked people to identify them, and one of the openings baffled most people. Do you recognise it?

Here it is. Existence. N. existence. esse, being, entity; absolute being, absoluteness, givenness; aseity, self-

existence: unit of being, monad, Platonic idea... Some thought it felt a bit like modern poetry, and others thought it might be a religious meditation, but it is in fact the opening of Roget's Thesaurus. Once you are told the title, the style becomes immediately recognisable, but nobody is likely to recognise or indeed even to have ever read the opening of the book. Roget's Thesaturus is not the kind of

book people read from the

start to the finish, so there

was no obligation on Dr Peter Mark Roget to devise a snappy opening. You can't imagine this exchange taking place at the publisher's:

"We like the book very much, Dr Roget, but we find the opening a little stodgy. Would it not be possible to .. to ...
"Yes? To what?"

Well, frankly, to put some of the more sensational word clusters on the first I was reminded of the matter of openings when I came across a novel by Auberon Waugh the other

day in a second-hand book shop in Bristol. It was called A Bed of Flowers, and if Auberon Waugh is interested, the 1985 paperback of the original 1972 hardback is currently fetching £2. Not having heard of the novel, I idly started reading it and was taken aback - this being the middle of last week - to find that the opening scene is set at an election night party, in fact an election night party for the night in 1966 when Harold Wilson was elected in

It was quite funny. (" 'If the Conservatives had won, I honestly think I

a Labour landslide.



Miles Kington

would have emigrated, said Charlie de Rothschild. He was a merchant banker.
"I just feel that the good

people are here again,' said little Mrs Pardue, crinkling up her eyes. She was either a Peek or a Frean - anyway, the biscuit family.") Whether it would have

been quite so funny if I myself wasn't about to face election night, I don't know. In fact, I might not even have read those opening few pages if it had not been for the coincidence of the way it described an election night party. I am not sure I shall read any further in the book now, even though I bought it. Yes, long after the time I thought I would ever buy another Auberon Waugh novel, I paid £2 and brought it home (which is how I am able to quote from it so accurately) and I have in fact read a little further onwards. but already there are so many characters doing such satirical things that I am not sure I may not have forgotten who half of them are already.

What the bookseller in Bristol should have done if he had any enterprise was put the novel in the window, affix a card saying "Topical -Topical - Topical - Contains Classic Description by Auberon Waugh of Election Night Party!" and charged £10 for it. But second-hand booksellers seldom show that sort of enterprise. They will affix little signs saying "First Edition or "Signed by Author", but what they will not do is put signs on saying "Very Funny" or "Good Battle Scenes" or "Pretty

of Way I did once see a book shop window in Museum Street, Bloomsbury where the wily bookseller had pinned a book open at a rather funny opening, and I was

Sexy in an Understated Sort

sufficiently tempted to go in and buy the book but on later perusal it turned out to be the only funny bit in the book, as I pointed out to the bookseller next time I was in there.

Yes, sir." he agreed. That was my opinion, too. Still, it worked, didn't it?" Certainly did, There have been one or two other books I bought entirely on the strength of the opening. Catch-22 was one. Another. was a novel by Ian Hay which opens with a description of a young Scottish country lad. coming to Edinburgh by train on his first visit there, and mis how he is initially

disappointed by its not being quite as big as he imagines, with not so many shops, and its being covered over by some sort of artificial dome. It turns out he is still inside Waverley station, which he assumes to be the whole of

Edinburgh. But my favourite opening. of any novel is still, after many years, this one.
"Bang! Bang! Bang!

"Four shots ripped into my, groin and I was off on the biggest adventure of my life. But first, let me tell you ... something about myself. Can anyone identify it?

the commentators

After the landslide, let's get back to democracy

New Labour than elected Major in 1992. Now, as the dust clears after Labour's landslide and all the voting fig-ures are in and crunched, yet again our quaint tombola of a system is shown to have procured a result that bears little resemblance to votes cast.

7.0

Why? Because huge numbers stayed at home, profoundly cheesed off with the paucity of choice on offer. Afterwards there was much chortling with glee at the many new Tory-free zones, yet in the cold light of day it is not funny that the Celtic Tories - nearly 20 per cent of the Welsh and 17.5 per cent of Scots are unrepresented.

Now is the time to start prepa-

rations for the next election. No, not the next general election, but for the great referendim on electoral reform. The vote will be in about three years' time and that is not long to create a well-financed and profes-Sional organisation from scratch. In this heady week, high on the euphoria of ejecting the Tories, it is easy to forget how things felt and what many people said during that interminable six-week election. There was a genuine indignation against the limited political choice and

revulsion at the repetitive soundbites going nowhere, the headbanging about fantasy budgets everyone knew were nonsense anyway. People Sod the rest, and not surprisingly many voters stayed at home in their droves, as never before. Some were the disaffected poor, who saw not enough for themselves in New Labour's tilt teswards Middle England. Others were angry Tories - pro and anti-Europeans - unable to articulate their vote to their satisfaction.

All that could be different next time. There could be parties to express those valid views if the referendum on proportional representation were won, with a new left and a new right wing split away without committing electoral suicide. (What's Jeremy Corbyn doing in the same party as Tony Blair?)

 First, within the year, a commission on electoral reform will make its recommendations. Who will serve on that commission? Will it be politicians and their henchpersons, or will it lude a cross-section of interests and communities? Will it represent the interests of voters, or only of the political parties? It will take up to a year to report and then there will be a

referendum within the year. Whoever wins the Tory leadership, it is likely, from what Blair has said so far, that both Labour and Tory leaders will throw their weight against change. But the Labour front bench will divide, with Robin Cook and Mo Mowlam among others for proportional rep-resentation. Of the valiant five Tory MPs who made up the Conservative Action for Electoral Reform only Peter Temple-Morris survived and

Tory newcomers are unlikely to be of that ilk. But what Westminster politicians say may not matter much: a recent Economist opinion poil suggests 65 per cent already support PR. By then we shall have Scottish and Welsh PRelected parliaments, making PR look less alarmingly foreign. Last week, many more vot-ers turned tactical, showing how well they inderstand our lousy system; under PR they no longer need vote for their second choice. The campaign will air the simple injustice of the present system in which time and again there is a wide disparity between votes cast and seats



Poliv **Toynbee**

Now is the time to prepare for the next big election – the referendum to change our unfair system

with Redwood. Labour's brilliant strategy made the best use of the sysof voting tem's anomalies, targeting just 70,000 swing voters in key seats. were affronted. Under PR, every vote in every seat is of value. So Tories would campaign in

won: 1945 - the Labour "land-

slide" won only 47 per cent of the

vote yet 61 per cent of the scats.

1951 - Labour lost their "land-

slide" with a higher proportion of votes (48.8 per cent) and more

votes than the Tories, who none the less won most seats. The 1974

clection ousted Ted Heath,

although he got more votes than

Labour ... time and again the will

not matter, but the political cul-ture does and its divisive ethos

has held us back ever since the

war. Our system binds parties

together in unnatural unions

with iron bands. PR would be

political divorce reform: at last

the unsuitably married could

divorce and remarry if they felt

like it. The SDP's bid to do it

without PR was like divorce 100

years ago, resulting only in social

exile and ruin. The spectacle of

the Tories fighting like cats in a

sack, just as Labour did in the Eighties, cries out for PR. How

on earth are Tories supposed to

vote for a party when that vote

might be interpreted as Clarkite or Redwoodian? So divided are

they that under PR if they split,

the Clarkites might be closer partners with New Labour than

The unfair mechanics may

of the voters is denied.

inner cities. Labour in the country, each gleaning the last vote they could. So, what about that supposed unique bond between the voters and their MP. Well, as so many of the vanquished lick their wounds after a life-time of constituency surgeries, that link looks pretty spurious. Good and bad fell alike under the Labour steamroller, and new MPs waxing sentimental about their patch had bet-

ter remember it. Labour MPs will calculate the odds. After all during the whole of the Eighties they gained hugely more seats than merited by their votes. and they've done it again now, so why give it Part contemplation of the past 18 years ould propel them towards PR, Never again, they should be saying. Under PR there never could have been the Thatcher years, there never could have been an extremist minority Tory government. If New Labour's inclusive impulse means anything, it must include shar-ing power with relatively like-minded parties. Only relinquish absolute power and Labour

would share power indefinitely. But their dizzying result may have gone to their heads. They may imagine, wrongly, they can have it all for ever on their terms. But next time won't be the same, those stay-at-home gut Tories will troop back. Most of us are still primitive tribal voters, life-long adherents to our parties, encouraged to stay in our bunkers by the present system. It is a meaningless, damaging tribalism that would be finally broken by PR. The paradox is that PR brings stability of government - no more wild left-right swings yet flexibility and choice for the voter.

So, now the myriad organisations already committed to PR need to set about preparing a formidable referendum fighting campaign -for it will take time and skill. It is looks set to become a campaign of the people against most of the Westminster politicians.

new-look Heritage departsure. Now that the awful prospect has passed of Jack Cunningham becoming Heritage Secretary, one regards with a kind of awe the hormonal monster that the Ministry of Fun has become. Of the incoming Secretary, Chris Smith, let me just quote three consecutive entries from Profiles: "often goes into flights of poetry and acade

Andrew Roth's Parliamentary resonance"; "gay; rock climber" and mountaineer and "the first MP to [climb all] the Munros, the 280 Scottish peaks over 3,000 feet". Soldier, scholar, horseman he .. But if there were any imputation of effeteness about the appointment of the

Commons' only self-declared homosexual to the department, Tony Banks's appointment as Minister for Sport should scotch it. His ambition to be Mayor of London temporarily thwarted, he now comes on like a prospective editor of When Saturday Comes magazine, swilling Rolling Rock, being pho-tographed in the Sports Café and saying "innit". But the knave in this testosterone-

enriched pack is Mark Fisher, the new Arts Minister. Mr Fisher's importance dans cette gàlere is not his contribution to Labour's "Create the Future" arts policy document. nor his interesting views on library funding or urban strategy, nor even his status as the only Old Etonian in the Government, but as an unlikely Lothario. Though portly, bald and, by his own admission, "a Humpty Dumpty figure", he has, almost unnoticedly. mutated into a Zorro of the boudoir. Just one week after

David Mellor's affair with over the papers, Fisher astounded literary London by appearing on holiday in France with Ursula Owen, the deeply gorgeous co-founder





Candia McWilliam, statuesque friend of Mr Fisher

of Virago Books and current director of Index on Censorship. Though Fisher had just ceased to be Mellor's opposite number, the press were weirdly silent on this exciting turn of events. Then last autumn, rumours flew that Candia McWilliam, the talented and statuesque novelist. has left her Parsee Oxforddon husband, Fram Dimshaw, for ... Mark Fisher. The couple are still happily together. No condemnations in the press, no gossip in the columns, no raised eyebrows in the literary salons and no cries of "shock" in the tabloids have ever disturbed the twirl and flourish of Mr Fisher's romantic swordplay.

How does he do it?

6 Book prize judge attacks 'smug' English novelists", yelled the headlines yesterday. Not again. Does a month now go by without a "book prize judge" - that curious new mode of employment which, like the Internet surfer and the image consultant. didn't exist 30 years ago - or a resting author making windy and foolish generalisations about British writers? This time last year, it was a couple of the Orange Prize judges saying too many novels were whiningly domestic or boringly brutal; then Carmen Callil at the Booker, then VS Naipaul grumpily declared the English novel as dead as the madrigal, then Salman Rushdie denying it in The New Yorker, then l'affaire Graham Swift; now we're back with the one about English novelists being "smug and parochial" and unconcerned about appealing to the world market. The attack came from Lisa Jardine, the reclusive and little-seen professor of English at Queen Mary and Westfield College, and chairman of the Orange Prize judges; she nominated Martin Amis, Julian Barnes, Graham

Swift and Pat Barker as typi-

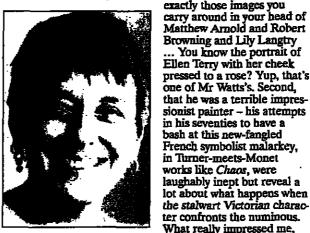
cal culprits of our narrow-

minded culture. "English

writers should look further

afield, look at world-wide issues for their subjects," she

concludes ringingly. Does everyone connected with the Orange Prize have to sign an undertaking to drum up some bogus controversy? Has Professor Jardine read Barker's The Ghost Road, with its not-veryparochial theme of civilisation and barbarism, from the Great War to the Polynesian



Jardine: controversial judge ungle? Or Amis's not-especially-homely Time's Arrow, about the making and unweaving of a Nazi? Or Counties The Porcupine. about the trial of an Eastern bloc dictator? And as for Graham Swift's Last Orders, whose bereaved London pilgrims she calls "parochial" and "meaningless" - do I need to remind a professor of English of Patrick Kavanagh's poem, Epic, in which the poet wonders if he can write about his backyard: "I inclined/To lose my faith in Ballyrush and Gortin/Till Homer's ghost came whispering to my mind. He said: I made the Iliad from such/A local row. Gods make their own importance.'

odern art grows up this year when the Tate Gallery hits its centenary in October. All kinds of razzy celebrations are promised at the Milibank

Passionatepoliticians at the Ministry of Fun, and none more so than the Arts Minister, a Zorro of the boudoir john walsh Mausoleum, among which will be a tribute to George Frederic Watts, the greatest of Victorian portrait painters and a co-founder of the illustrious gallery. I hightailed it down the A3 at the weekend to a little village outside Guildford, to look at the Watts Gallery, which features

a permanent record of his

work. What a revelation!

First, that his portraits are

though, was the sculpture he

Alfred, Lord Tennyson. Clad

ex-Poet Laureate stands like

a colossal epitome of melan-

holding ... But you can't see

what it's holding, only that

he's staring at it with a rapt

between horror and wisdom

Imagine a 13-foot figure of

leaked results of the Tatton

entrant realising that he's got

Neil Hamilton inspecting the

choly, one hand disconso-

lately holding a wide-

brimmed hat, the other

fascination, somewhere

vote. Imagine a lottery

a 14, but sadly not a 41.

Imagine the recipient of a

in a voluminous ulster and

embarked on at the end of

his life - especially the 13-

foot memorial statue of

sir, We are on our way over with the removals lorry ..."). What could have been the occasion of such misery? Had the hand once held something which had dropped off? Enthralled, I spent the day trying to find out. A smaller maquette of the statue in another room revealed the hand to have tiny squiggles on it, like the alphabet of an unknown civilisation; but a passing curator said it was only the carving technique. Someone swore that the long-nosed hound, the shaggy rial in Lincoln Cathedral has a book in Tennyson's hand (but what? King Lear? Candide? The Collected McGonagall?). Finally I rang the curator, Richard Jeffries. "It's a little bunch of flowers," he told me, "The statue's based on the poem The flower in the crannied wall', about the time Tennyson was staying at Wag-goners Wells and picked a sprig of toadflax and saw therein the key to the mys teries of the universe." Toadflax, eh? Can we bung some round to the Heritage note from the bailiffs ("Dear department straight away?

How quickly the honeymoon can sour

 $_{\odot}$ Bill Clinton's first 100 days were a fiasco with lessons for Tony Blair, says Rupert Cornwell

ow familiar it all seems, in this heady political spring of 1997. Many and deliberate are the parallels between Tony Blair and Bill Clinton at the dawn of their respective eras: the replacement of the stale and old by modernity, novelty and youth, the cultivatedly informal styles, last Friday's walk down a Downing Street that was a miniature Pennsylvania Avenue on Inauguration Day, 1993. But one similarity, thus far at least - Blair is avoiding the serial disasters that came close to destroying the Clinton Presidency at its very start. Hit the Ground Running", they all promise. But those of us who were there will never forget the stumbling, pothole strewn birth of Clinton's America. It was Murphy's Law made flesh. The tone was set even before he entered the White House, as the President-elect struggled to form his Administration. Then came Namygate and the quest for a female Attorney General who had paid social security contributions for her domestic staff, a requirement satisfied only by the third candidate. There then followed the quite immedcessary distraction over a campaign promise on gays in the military. Finally, there was an ilconceived economic stimulus package suggesting that this New Democrat was at heart an oldfashioned tax-and-spend liberal. One way and another, the first 100 days of Clinton felt like the

last days of Major. To be fair, not every problem was self inflicted. With the sole recent exception of Alec Douglas-Home in 1963, British prime ministers enjoy Honeymoons. So, once, did American Presidents. Not, however, Bill Clinton, who inspired thenand still does - a hatred in some quarters matched only by that felt for Richard Nixon. But he did make marters worse for himself. He appeared undisciplined and undignified, oblivious to the fact that he was not only head of government, but also head of state, someone who should not take to TV to reveal whether his taste in underpants runs to boxers or briefs. In a word,



week in Downing Street, he appears every inch a prime minister. The manifesto and a bland campaign gave few hostages to fortune, while everyone seems to know exactly what he's doing. At the weekend, Chris Smith nimbly avoided a gaffe on the Elgin Marbles. Then came the swift sign-up to the European Social Chapter, and Gordon Brown's stunning coup over the Bank of England and interest rates. That's hitting the ground running.

Helping Labour, of course, are the inbuilt safeguards peculiar to the British system. Parliamentary government ensures that a potenin underpants runs to the first state of high power, (even the much-mocked Douglas-Home, in fact was migron pounts at the sharp end, and his or whenever he calls the next election. Today's arrogant and untried staff knew everything balmy honeymoon will be a distant memory. If the first state around him wielded in first is his arrogant and untried staff knew everything balmy honeymoon will be a distant memory. If

no "bubble" problem. Already, after less than a Party). Despite his youth, Blair has been an MP for almost 14 years.

Remember too that, compared to an American president, a British prime minister is an elected dictator. The former must deal with a Congress that even when controlled by his own party is fiercely jealous of its constitutional role as a separate branch of government. In Britain, on the other hand, the prime minister automatically commands a majority in Parliament, over whom his powers of patronage are huge. Permanent civil servants wait to help him at every turn. If he knows what he wants to do, he can do it. Clinton, by contrast, had never experienced Washington politics at the sharp end, and his

At this point, however, the paths of Blair and Clinton start to converge. The Prime Minister, we are told, wants to run a presidential administration, in which 10 Downing Street becomes the White House, command and control centre for all government dealings with the media. If

so, then beware. It won't work. Arguably the gravest error of the untested Clintonites was to lock a door. It connected the White House press room with the corridor leading to the office of the White House spokesman. Never - even during the worst days of Watergate - had it been closed. Bill Clinton inherited a press corps at least as well disposed towards him as the looby is to Blair, but at a stroke he lost it. The aim was to control the news; instead, he achieved the opposite. Thus the fierce and hostile coverage of embarrassments such as the sacking of the White House travel office staff and Whitewater, as well as that \$250 haircut aboard Air Force One on the tarmac at Los Angeles airport, which was portrayed as a regal whim that paralysed West Coast air traffic for hours.

Now it is hard to imagine Tony Blair, so disciplined and anything but raffish, causing such public inconvenience. But is it a coincidence that just as Clinton promised the most ethical Administration in history", so the Prime Minister yesterday read the riot act on sleaze to his new MPs? The very standards Blair sets make him doubly vulnerable to even small transgressions by his followers or himself.

But, if in these next few weeks, the machine should come off the rails, let Blair look across the Atlantic. The art of politics is not so much avoiding mistakes, as not making the same one twice. Bill Clinton's first two years were an excruciating job-training course, culminating in the Republicans' mid-term sweep of Congress. But by 1995, finally, the "bubble" snapped tight, and in November last year Clinton won a second term in a canter. Let Tony Blair be so lucky in 2002, or whenever he calls the next election. Today's



business & city

Sir David Simon's decision to accept ministerial post seen as Government coup but costly loss for oil giant

Europhile BP chief moves to key Blair job

Chris Godsmark Business Correspondent

Sir David Simon, one of Britain's best-known industrialists and the man credited with saving British Petroleum from financial disaster, yesterday confirmed his decision to join the Government in a new ministerial role responsible for trade and competitiveness. The move ends a 36-year career with the oil giant.

The appointment was viewed yesterday as a huge loss to BP but a coup for the Government. showing its determination to build a partnership with the business community. Sir David's move, at the personal instigation of Tony Blair, Prime Minister. is also another dramatic demonstration of the administration's more Euro-friendly approach.

He has been one of the leading advocates of closer European co-operation from the business community, regularly putting the case for the UK col-laborating on moves towards a single currency and a vehement critic of Euro-scepticism.

Confirming his resignation as chairman. BP announced that Peter Sutherland, deputy chairman since 1995, would be taking over as interim chairman. The company said it would consider the issue of Sir David's

course" though Mr Sutherland is almost certain to be confirmed in the job later this year. Another strong pro-Eu-ropean, Mr Sutherland is chairman of Goldman Sachs International and was a former European Commissioner responsible for competition policy. He also headed the World Trade Organisation.

Sir David will be made a life peer to enable him to take up the ministerial position and has also resigned from his other

6 He won't get an automatic

pay-off but may get something at our discretion. He served us well 🤊

non-executive directorships, in-cluding RTZ and Deutsche Bank. He also ended his membership of the Court of the Bank of England, a role he took on

Mr Blair's office described as "inaccurate" reports that Sir David had been sounded out for

the post of Minister for Europe.

Based in an office at the Department of Trade and Industry, Sir David will have a roving brief also covering the Treasury and charged with promoting the "competitive-ness agenda" in Europe, pushing forward the drive to complete the single market and spreading the gospel of flexible labour markets. He will also chair an inter-depart-

will also chair an inter-depart-mental committee on Euro-pean competitiveness.

Downing Street insisted last night that Sir David would have no involvement in the single cur-rency question, though he will also be a member of cabinet committees covering economic and European affairs and the taskforce on the British presitaskforce on the British presidency of the EU.

It also emerged that Sir David will not be paid during his government service. The normal middle-ranking ministerial salary is £31,125. BP said he had severed all connections with the company, though he could re-ceive a pay-off. A spokesman said: "He doesn't automatically get a pay-off. He may get something at the discretion of the company. He's served us well. But it won't be evident till we publish our annual report next



year and this year had not taken part in the group's generous long-term share bonus

He has 247,091 shares in the company worth £1,800,057 which are likely to be held in Sir David was paid a £241,000 trust during his time in gov-

ernment. BP's share price fell 4p yesterday to 728.5p.

Starting as a graduate apprentice. Sir David joined BP full-time in 1961, rising to become chief executive of the downstream oil division in 1982. By 1986 he had been appointed chief operating officer and

finance director, a role he unusually took on despite the lack of any formal accountancy qualification.

He became chief executive following the surprise departure of Bob Horton in 1992 after a long-running boardroom dis-pute. Faced with debts of

£16.3bn, Sir David masterminded a rescue strategy involving the loss of thousands of jobs. BP has since become one of the world's top performing oil companies with profits last year

Comment, page 21 Investment column, page 24

been changed half-way through

by the regulator. Meeting the

October deadline is not as sim-

The earlier trial areas, which

cover about 2 million homes in

the south of England, have al-

ready resulted in Centrica, the

Rival independent gas com-

quicker national roll-out.

Roger Turner, former man-

aging director of United Gas

and one of the leading advo-

cates of competition, said if the

Government agreed to the de-

lay it would send conflicting sig-

nals about its consumer-led

A delay wouldn't fit in well

with Labour's commitment to

ensure an open European

energy market by the end of the

UK's EU presidency and its aim to put the consumer first."

from regional electricity com-

panies (RECs) to delay start of

power competition, due to be-

gin from next April. One REC.

which did not want to be

named, wants an early meeting.

Mr Battle also faces calls

approach to regulation.

panies are largely in favour of

arguing that BG has already

proved its computer systems can

ope with the change.

ple as that."

Buoyant sterling erodes industry growth

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

The strong pound is chipping chip away at growth in manu-facturing, official figures sug-gested yesterday.

Manufacturing output fell unexpectedly in March, declining in all sectors except engi-

Separate figures for car sales last month, showing the consumer spending spree continu-ing unabated, highlighted the contrast between the strength of home demand and weakness on the export front.

The division in the economy has split economists between those who call for further interest rate rises to slow consumer spending, and those who reckon this would harm the recovery in industry.

Marian Bell at Royal Bank of Scotland said: "Obviously manufacturing is not growing very strongly but that should not prevent the Bank of England from putting interest rates up again." In the other camp, Jonathan Loynes at HSBC Markets said: 'Industry needs more rises like it needs a hole in the head."...

.The financial markets brushed off all such wornes. Share prices climbed again, the FTSE 100 index ending up more than 18 points at 4,537.5 another record. It has gained nearly 100 points in the three trading days since Labour's victory last week.

The pound held steady at just over DM2.81. Gilt prices fell slightly but the yield premium over German bunds also narrowed a little further. Tuesday's fall in this spread had been the biggest in a single day for nearly three years.

Manufacturing output fell by 0.1 per cent in March. It rose 0.6 per cent in the first quarter of the year, to a level 1.6 per cent higher than a year earliet.

"Manufacturing is not yet up against the wall. This is growth of about the trend rate." said Michael Dicks, UK economist at Lehman Brothers.

In the latest month, output was down in most of the main sectors, with drops of 0.8 per cent in chemicals and metals.

Engineering bucked the trend with a 0.3 per cent increase.

David Hillier at BZW said it made sense for engineering exports to have suffered less because the industry's products were typically more sophisticated and therefore less

sensitive to price competition. Taking the first quarter compared to a year earlier as a better indication of the trends, engineering production is up 4 per cent, metals 2.7 per cent. textiles and clothing 1.8 per cent: but the other sectors showed smaller gains.

Total industrial production was also down 0.1 per cent during March. Apart from the drop in manufacturing, its main component, gas, electricity and water supply, was down 0.6 per cent due to the unseasonbly warm and dry weather. Industrial output climbed 1.4 per cent in the year to the first quarter.

Separately, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said new car sales had risen-12.3 per cent in the year to April. Retail custom had improved_

BSkyB unveils BT interactive TV link-up | BG in renewed

and Cathy Newman

British Sky Broadcasting and British Telecom yesterday unveiled their long-awaited and controversial partnership to spearhead the drive into interactive digital satellite television, creating a £265m company to subsidise the introduction of the electronic set-top box technology.

BT said it would be interested in floating the new company, British Interactive Broadcasting (BIB), if its ambitious plan to create the dominant platform for digital pay- TV catches the public imagination. Rupert Gavin, BT's head of multimedia services, said: "If the company achieves success it obviously would be a candidate for a float."

However, BIB confirmed that it would not be able to offer a service until next spring because of the delays to the launch of a new Astra satellite, allowing the cable companies to gain a head start with their digital service, planned for sell groceries off the screen November. Full interactive and HMV to do likewise with services, including home shopping, banking and educational products would not be available until the summer of next year. The deal is also likely to be scrutinised by the European

Commission and the Office of Fair Trading. An OFT spokesman said: "This might fall under the restrictive practices act." He said the OFT would wait until the service started before making a judgement.

dent" it would receive regula-

For an outlay of £200 on a set-

top box, consumers will not only

be able to tune into dozens

more channels but have access

to an array of interactive

services, writes Paul McCann.

service could be home-

shopping. So far Sainsbury has

signed up with British Inter-

active Broadcasting (BIB) to

BIB is also in talks with

clothes shops, chemists, elec-

trical goods stores, DIY super-

stores and drinks companies so

consumers should be able to

Potentially the most popular

BIB inisisted it was "confitory clearance on the grounds that the market is too new to

nications regulator, said the venture would be "good news for consumers" if it did not distort the market. He has proposed guidelines covering fair access to the box technology. BT and BSkyB will each own 32.5 per cent of BIB, with Mid-

Cruickshank, the telecommuland Bank taking a 20 per cent

create a monopoly. Don Japanese electronics giant behind the Pansonic brand, taking the remaining 15 per cent. The initial cash injection of £265m will cover the first five years of operations, split pro rata between the four shareholders. Matushita said the cash would not all be paid up front: "There is no logic in putting money in

Home-shoppers soon able to cast their Net wide

> available, broadcast in highquality digital images and sound overlaid with text. Once a particular department has been accessed, viewcurrency will also be available

ers will be able to browse through lists or images of goods by moving an electronic arrow around the screen. To make a purchase will entail selecting a product number and an order will be made via the set-top box and a high-speed modem. Besides shopping, viewers

buy most mainstream goods.

Retailers using the service will

be able to offer a store guide of

all the different departments

bank accounts to check balances, transfer money or pay

RIB claims that bank information and payment details for goods will all be encrypted so that no one can back into them. In addition, Thomas Cook has signed up to supply flight, holiday and botel information. Travellers cheques and foreign

electronically. The set-top box will also link televisions to the Internet, eventually giving access to billions of pages of text information. At first this will be limited to a "best of the Internet" service.

on day one if it's not needed for share, and Matsushita, the iree or four years." BIB surprised analysts with a

much bigger than expected order for 1 million set-top boxes which allow consumers to decode programmes. Cable companies have already placed their order for just 10,000 boxes, though a cable source suggested their policy of ordering boxes as the demand emerged was "more prudent". BIB's order is split between

Matsushita, Amstrad, Pace Micro Technology and Grundig/Hyundai. Matsushita said it had not been decided how to split the boxes between the four manufacturers. Most of the investment will subsidise the cost of boxes in the shops, which will be priced at £200, against a manufacturing cost of some £350. The total subsidy over 10 years could be £700m.

Cable companies attacked the venture, claiming BIB would be unable to offer the level of interactivity available from cable technology.

The announcement came as BSkyB reported results for nine months ended 31 March 1997, slightly below market expectations. Profit before tax was up 21 per cent to £215m, and total paying subscribers were up by 121,000 to 6.2 million in the

effort to delay gas competition

attempt to delay the next stage the Conservatives had aimed to of England in October.

The issue is understood to have already been put to the

The call for a delay to com-petition comes after BG failed to persuade Clare Spottis-woode, the gas industry regu-

precise timing had never been clear. Ms Spottiswoode also wants national competition to start in full by next April.

the October trial area, involving some 2 million homes from Scotland down to Teeside in the North-east, as one of his last decisions at the DTI. However, he opened the issue to consultation within the gas industry.

BG has introduced new com-

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DM (London) 1.7194 -0 37pt 1.5213

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\$ index 105.2 -0.8 96.2

Chris Godsmark

BG, the renamed British Gas, will lobby the Government in an of domestic competition, which start in Scotland and the north demerged BG supply operation, losing more than 200,000 cus-

new energy minister, John Battle, before the general election and is expected to be followed up in briefings with BG over the next few weeks. BG owns the pipeline network, TransCo, and has claimed it cannot introduce complex computer systems, which track customers as they switch supplier, in the planned timescale

lator, to drop her plan to bring forward domestic competition with a fourth trial area this year. The original aim had been to start the full national roll-out of competition in 1998, though the

Ian Lang, former President of the Board of Trade, announced

puter systems for each trial area, leaving at least 10 more to be replaced before full competition is completed. An indus-try source said: "The agenda has

BANK OF IRELAND BASE RATE.

Bank of Ireland announces that with effect from close of business

on 7 May 1997 its Base Rate has increased from

6.00% to 6.25%



GEC set to combine Marconi with Thomson-CSF

Michael Harrison

GEC yesterday positioned itself to combine its Marconi defence electronics business with that of Thomson-CSF of France whichever of the two governmentapproved bidders succeeds in taking over the company. Lord Prior, chairman of GEC, said that it had signed memoranda of understanding

with both the Aleatel Alsthom-

FTSE SmallCap 2304.85 FTSE All-Share 2173.90

Dassault consortium and the British Aerospace-backed Lagardère group, the two candidates selected to bid for

The move follows last month's decision by the French government to veto a direct takeover bid for Thomson-CSF by GEC on grounds of "national security". It was the second time in four months the French had rejected a foreign bid.

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STOCK MARKETS

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+6.64 +0.3 -56.59 -0.8

+0.3

GEC already has joint ventures with the groups bidding for Thomson-CSF. It owns a 50 per cent stake in GEC Alsthom, the Anglo-French power engineering and transport company. and has a space joint venture with Lagardère.

Separately, it was confirmed that BAe will fund up to £300m of Lagardère's bid. BAe also has a joint venture with Lagardère's Matra division in missiles.

are Europe's two biggest defence electronics companies and together would form a combination capable of competing on a more equal footing with US giants such as Lock-heed-Martin. Lord Prior said the agreements signed vesterday with the two consortia left it well positioned to take part in any reorganisation of Europe's elec-

7.18__

6.93

Marconi and Thomson-CSF

put a large part of Marconi's operations into a combined company although it would keep the naval warship business. which owns VSEL in Barrow and the Yarrow yard on the Clyde separate.

The French government was due to select the winning bidder by early July but the timetable may have been affected by the decision to call an election.

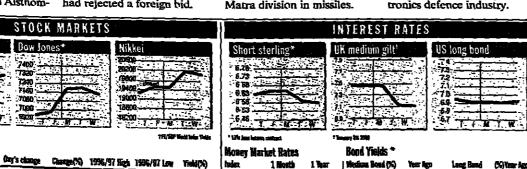
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GEC would be prepared to



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OTHER INDICATORS

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COMMENT

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£5bn in cash or

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im Ark

With one bound, ICI breaks free of its old image

New Labour. New Millennium. New ICI. It is not just the Government offices on Millbank that have suddenly found themselves with a different set of occupants. Once ICP's acquisition of Unilever's speciality chemicals business is complete, Imperial Chemical House will ring with the sound of Dutchmen and Americans as well as the odd Brit.

The scale and significance of the deal is quite breathtaking. With one bound (two if you count the accompanying disposals programme) ICI has kissed goodbye to 70 years of history and tradition, dumped its image as a commodity chemicals manufacturer and, in the irksome parlance of modern-day management speak, decided to get closer to

its customers.

It has also, incidentally, got further away from its domestic manufacturing base since only one of the four businesses it is buying from Unilever are headquartered here. The biggest, National Starch, is located in the US while two of the others are run from the Netherlands.

It is not every day that a British business parts company with £5bn in cash or that one of industry's few remaining household names changes course so dramatically. And yet this curiously remains a deal about which it is hard to work up much excitement.

That was partly because it had been well trailed. Nevertheless, it still took all the hyperbole ICI could muster to hold the attention of analysts and press alike amid the talk of oleochemicals (fatty acids to the non- ernment minister taking up the top position | cessful monetary union as some of the

for a company of its size. The £5.6bn debt mountain it is left with will necessitate a bigger, quicker and more ambitious clear-out

of unwanted businesses than planned.
Industrially, it is far to early to say whether ICI's momentous change of tack will work, but it deserves to. Instead of taking the predictable route of buying a similar business and then squeezing every last drop of cost savings out of the combined operation, ICI has set its sights on new markets and new sectors where it genuinely thinks it can add value and achieve growth. It would be a step in the dark were it not for the fact that Charles Miller Smith, ICT's chief executive, spent 11 of his 30 years at Unilever working for precisely the businesses he has just bought.

David Simon could confound the cynics

It would be easy to be cynical and negative Labout Sir David Simon's appointment as minister for trade and competitiveness in Europe, as some no doubt will be. For starters, there are the very practical conflicts of interest and are the very practical contacts of interest and difficulties associated with one of Britain's leading industrialists moving without so much as a break for a cup of tea from the charman-ship of BP into an influential Government job.

If it were the other way round - a Gov-

then there would rightly be a row about it.

As it is, Sir David can hardly be accused

of having "earnt" his new job by doing favours while in the old one. True enough, he has always been sympathetic to Tony Blair's reform of the Labour Party, and influential behind the scenes in moulding it, but Mr Blair certainly owes him no favours, nor can moving from his present highly paid position into unpaid public service really be described as one.

But the most fertile ground for cynicism is the job itself. This is what a cynic would say about it. Minister for trade and com-petitiveness in Europe, straddling two gov-ernment departments? What on earth is that? Minister without power might more realistically describe his position. Or maybe minister for ineffectual meddling. Yes, Sir David is going to find it hard in such a neb-ulous position to make much impact. In any case, does anyone seriously think the Europeans are going to take any notice of what Sir David and the Brits have to offer on flex-

ible labour markets? Well yes, they might actually. There is a growing consensus throughout Europe about the need for reform and deregulation in labour markets. Many of its leading politicians have come to accept that con-vergence of labour markets is as important if not more important a precondition of suc-

scientific), silicates and zeolites (don't ask). at BP or some other large company relying the profile Maastricht criteria. Financially, ICI has bitten off a lot, even heavily on interaction with government - While it is clear there is a way to go on this front, Britain does provide a model. Sir David already sits at the high table on these matters, having been a key adviser to the European Commission on competitiveness and how to address its deficiencies.

This is an important appointment, as much for the signal it sends to Europe of a Government determined to adopt a constructive approach as anything else. There is a real danger that the job will get buried, wither and die, a bit like Mrs Thatcher's appointment of a businessman to weed out waste and inefficiency in Whitehall. It nonetheless doesn't deserve to and Sir David

As for BP, it is going to miss sorely Sir David's wisdom and professionalism. But he leaves the company in rude health and in good hands. Peter Sutherland, another convinced pro-European, will make an excellent, if very different successor. With three of our leading companies now headed by Irishmen, we should perhaps be worrying more about being run from Dublin than Brussels.

Cable may mount an interactive challenge

there's not much doubt about who gets the better part of the bargain among the participants in British Interactive Broadcasting - as usual it's BSkyB, which has clev-

erly managed to persuade others largely to finance its push into digital satellite while at the time getting a free ride on the much more high-risk, commercially unknown market of interactive services.

That is not to maintain that British Telecom has been hoodwinked. The entry fee is high and the rewards unknown, but at least the company gets a ringside seat in a market it desperately wants to be a part of – interactive TV. Banned, even under Labour, until 2001 from offering broadcast TV across its network, this venture allows it to participate in one of the most advanced experiments in home entertainment, shopping, banking and travel anywhere in the world. Because the whole thing piggy-backs off Sky, it stands a much better chance of commercial viability than any stand-alone venture would have done.

BIB's main challenge will come not so much from regulators, whose readiness to put an end to this alliance of monopolists should not be underestimated, as from cable. Cable plans to launch its own digital set-top box a good six to nine months ahead of BIB. Furthermore it has very substantial technological and cost advantages over anything BIB can offer. But as always with cable, the real question is whether it has the wherewithal and the will to compete. According to rumour, only 10,000 of its digital settop boxes have been ordered, hardly a match for BIB's one million. All the same, stranger things have been known. Who knows, the young sloth make awaken yet.

£5bn Unilever deal marks new focus at ICI

Michael Harrison

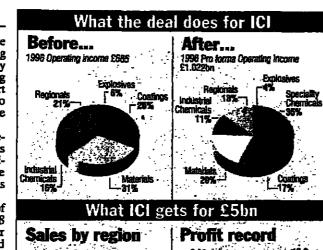
ICI yesterday made a decisive break with its past by paying £5bn for Unilever's speciality chemicals business and doubling its disposals programme as part of a strategic plan designed to reposition the company for the next millennium.

.: The twin strategy will remove ICI still further from its historic roots as a bulk chemicals manufacturer, taking the group into less cyclical markets and closer to the consumer. ... The overhaul is the result of

a group-wide review begun 18 months ago, shortly after Charles Miller Smith arrived from Unilever to take up the chief executive's job, and marks the biggest change at ICI since its demerger from Zeneca three and a half years ago.

Sir Ronnie Hampel, ICI's chairman, said: "ICI was formed ierger /u years a deal creates nothing less than a new ICI for the new century. 12. It emerged yesterday that ICI had, in fact, made a preemptive bid for the businesses more than a year ago. Although this was rejected by Unilever's ICI with borrowings of £5.6bn chairman, Niall Fitzgerald, it left and result in a goodwill write-ICI well placed to move quickly off of £3bn-£3.5bn. ICI said the when he put the division up for

from rival bidders Akzo Nobel of the Netherlands and Dupont of the US, although it insisted a year achieved by Unilever. the \$86n (£5bn) price tag eventually agreed was not materially higher than its initial offer.



The deal is being financed entirely with debt and will leave acquisition would enhance sale after all late last year.

ICI beat off competition and pledged it would grow the new businesses at a considerable

marking ICI shares 43p higher to 757.5p. "It's a bold move but

earnings almost immediately

faster rate than the 6-7 per cent The City welcomed the deal,

raise an estimated £3bn over three years compared with an original target of £1.5bn and will see the group dispose of its 62 per cent stake in ICI Australia valued at £1.1bn - and the

Tioxide white pigments business.

The biggest of the four businesses ICI is buying is the USbased National Starch, one of the world's leading industrial ad-hesive and speciality starch producers with sales of £1.5bn. National Starch makes the costing for the latest Pentium chip.
The other businesses are the

Dutch-based Quest, the world's leading fragrance and flavouring company, Unichema, which also has headquarters in the Netherlands and makes fatty acids, and Crosfield, which makes speciality chemicals for use in the detergents, drink, hygiene and paper industries.
The only businesses that is

complementary is Unichema, ICI's existing performance chemicals business. This means there will be little in the way of cost savings to be achieved.

However, Mr Miller Smith said that the deal would provide definitely a move in the right direction," one said analyst. ICI with a tremendous platform for growth through the blend of Unilever's speciality chemicals division consists of four businesses supplying starches, flavourings, fatty acids and its technological and process engineering know-how and gesilicates to a huge range of inographic spread and Unilever's dustries from hygiene and pack-

Crucially also, the business es had been unable to win orders from rival consumer product groups under Unilever Intra group sales accounted for The disposal programme will 10 per cent of turnover.



Future plans: Sir Ronnie Hampel (left) and Charles Miller Smith Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

RBS holds back from buying building society

Tom Stevenson Financial Editor

Royal Bank of Scotland said yesterday it remained interested in buying a building society to increase its exposure to retail customers south of the border but said the prices implied by the recent flotation of Alliance Leicester ruled out an imminent move.

· Announcing record interim profits, George Mathewson, chief executive, also shut the door on the prospect of a share buy-back, saying the bank had no shortage of investment opportunities. He poured cold water on recent speculation that the bank might itself fall prey to a bid from a bigger

financial group such as HSBC interim dividend worth a third or Halifax. Its shares have risen of last year's full-year payout or sharply in recent weeks on market whispers, closing yes-terday at 585p, down 0.5p.

Despite rumours last month that Direct Line, the bank's telephone insurance subsidiary, had plunged into the red in the six months to March, the division recorded a small rise in profits amid continuing fierce competition in motor premiums. Mr Mathewson said he was hopeful the corner had been turned and rates, on the slide for more than three years, would soon rise.

In the half year to March group profits amounted to £369m, up from £301m a year ago. The bank stuck to its two years ago of £112m. traditional practice of paying an

of last year's full-year payout, or 6.20 a share.

drink. It employs 15,000 people

world-wide and made operating

profits last year of £357m on

sales of just under £3bn.

The biggest contributor was the UK banking arm, where cost control and a good performance from corporate banking helped profits mp from £246m to £306m. Mr Mathewson warned, however, that a four-point fall in the ratio of the division's costs to its income would not be sustained into the The £8m (£5m) return from

Direct Line scotched rumours that the once highly successful telephone insurance business was in serious trouble. But returns remained insignificant compared with the record profit Investment column, page 22 Her option price is 109p.

Laura Ashley boss earns £1m

John Willcock

Ann Iverson, the chief executive of fashion and home furnishings group Laura Ashley, picked up a £525,000 bonus last year which took her total pay to more than £1m.

. Details of the remuneration come just a month after the company issued a profits warning which drove the share price down by over a quarter.

Ms iverson's total pay increased by a fifth to £1,071,000

last year. This includes a personal insurance plan of £50,000 and a housing allowance of £82,000. Her basis salary was £409,000. She also holds in excess of 5.5 million share options but paper gains on these have been wined out by the share price collapse. The shares closed 0.5p down yesterday at 105.5p.

Jim Walsh, finance director, received a bonus of £350,000 last year taking his total pay to £648,000. He received total pay of £360,000 in the previous

American-born Ms Iverson, 53, joined the board in July 1994 and was appointed chief executive a year later. She had a strong reputation, having turned around Mothercare for British Home Stores.

Her tough-talking approach, sprinkled with US business school management speak, encouraged the City, where analysis were impressed by her strategy to cut costs and develop the Laura Ashley brand.

The shares, which had been languishing at 80p, rose sharply on Ms Iverson's appointment, reaching 210p in May last year, only to fail back to 180p by the summer collections at discounts that would cost a total of £4m. The company said its



Ann Iverson: Share collapse

In the profits warning last sive. Analysts cut their fore-month Laura Ashley said it was having to sell its spring and well over £20m to around £17m.

At the time of the warning Ms Iverson claimed to have the problems under control: "My confidence, my understanding of the issues and the fact that the recovery plan is still intact are valid reasons for continuing optimism," she said.

Before she joined Laura Ashley, Ms Iverson was president and chief executive officer of Kay-Bee Toy Stores, a subsidiary of the Melville Corporation of America.

Ms Iverson has always warned that turning Laura Ashley around would take three to four years. The company has been struggling with too many stores that are too small to display its full range of fashion

Sainsbury points to signs of recovery

Nigei Cope City Correspondent

Sainsbury's claimed to have "turned the corner" in the supermarket battle with arch rival Tesco yesterday though it admitted that regaining the number one position in UK food retailing was no longer a realistic short or medium-term ambition.

The comments came as Sainsbury's reported a collapse in pre-tax profits to £609m, in line with its calamitous profits warning in January which forced the shares close to their lowest level for five years.

However, Dino Adriano, couraging sales figures which showed same stores sales up 4.2 per cent in current trading, as evidence of a gradual Sains-

bury's fight back.
"I think these figures are pretty convincing. It does represent a beginning and I think we are turning the corner. Tesco is still ahead but the gap is

narrowing."

He said that overtaking

Tesco, which now has a market share of 15 per cent compared with Sainsbury's 12.6 per cent, was not a priority. "There are other measures of being top. Being the biggest is not necessarily consistent with being the best." He said the group planned to base its revival on highlighting the distinctions between Sainsbury's and its rivals and keep-

ing a tight rein on costs. Sainsbury's figures received a positive reception in the City where the shares edged 3p

higher to 349p.

Mike Dennis of Nat West Securities said: "The City can see more focus from the management and more emphasis on internal targets. But it will take a another one or two set of results before we can be sure of

progress."
Mr Adriano said Sainsbury's involvement in Andrew Regan's abortive bid for the Co-op would not damage its reputation. He said Sainsbury's. which was interested in acquiring some Co-op stores, only received lists of stores and no confidential information. Chairman David Sainsbury has since contacted the CWS chief executive Graham Melmoth to explain the situation.

Investment column, page 22

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Rewards in sight at Sainsbury

Secing the green shoots of recovery only to be proved premarure in its optimism. This time, just maybe, the green shoots affective.

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND the once-great stores group could be right. There was a distinct air of improved confidence among the management vesterday and David Sainsbury, for the first time in ages, did not look like a man harassed.

True, a 4.2 per cent increase in samestore sales in the seven weeks since the vear-end is hardly breathtaking. It is still some way short of Tesco's recent o per cent figure, but Sainsbury does seem to be edging in the right direction. The equivalent figure was 3.7 per cent in the second half and just 2.7 per cent in the first.

These gains have not been achieved without considerable costs, of course. The launch and running costs of the Reward loyalty card have been expensive and longer store opening hours have brought a higher wage bill.

Sainsbury's shares rose 3p to 349p after the City warmed to a firm message on cost control and the introduction of specific financial targets for various parts of the group. Shaw's, the US supermarket operation, is budgeted to improve its return on net assets from 10 per cent to 15 per cent by 2000. In the DIY business, the old Texas Homecare stores, which contrived to lose £29m last year, are meant to improve like-for-like sales by 5 per cent, while the Homebase stores have been set a margin target of 7-8 per cent.

In supermarkets the recovery will take time. Profits there were 11 per cent lower at £661m and margins fell from 7.3 per cent to 6.2 per cent due to the petrol price war, which cost £23m, the loyalty card costs and price reductions. This year, however, the company expects stable food margins and higher returns from petrol after the abatement of the price war.

Chief executive Dino Adriano has said he will not chase Tesco's number one market share position for its own sake but will judge the company on other goals. With just 43 per cent of the UK grocery market, Sainsbury feels there is still room to grow market share at the expense of smaller operators. And there is evidence the group is

winning more higher-spending primary In DIY, the integration of the Homebase and Texas operations has been harder and more expensive than anticipated, but prospects are en-couraging with a benign climate and strong market position. The former Texas stores should be making £40m

profits in a few years. Sainsbury's shares have taken a terrible pounding in the last few years and the glory days of supernormal profits are probably gone for ever. The market is just too competitive. But with such a strong brand franchise and signs of sales recovery, it is starting to look an

J.Sainsbury : at a glance

Share price

attractive investment. On current year forecasts of £704m, the shares trade on a forward rating of 14, which is a dis-count to most of its main rivals. A true recovery could take two to three years, but patience should be rewarded.

Whitbread offers heady brew

leaving the stage at Britain's fourth-biggest brewer on a high note. Unveiling his last set of results yes-terday, he was able to announce both record profits, up 6 per cent to £303m in the year to 1 March, and the group's biggest-ever share of the UK beer market at 15.3 per cent. The 14 per cent rise in underlying profits represents a tough target for Whitbread's

Against the background of a total beer market which continues its gentle decline, Whitbread's ability to raise its beer profits 11 per cent to £49.9m was a notable achievement. It is testimony achieving on its capital programme to the efforts of Mr Jarvis over the past up to 25 per cent on redevelopment of

Five year record

Pre-tax profits (£bn)

Dividends per share (pence)

UK Supermarket profits

12 years in focusing on premium lager brands such as Stella Artois, where take-home sales of over £100m last year put it ahead of better-known names like Heinz baked beans or Kellogg's corn-

But beer is now just 13 per cent of profits and Mr Jarvis's real achievement is in building brands like Travel Inn and TGI Friday's in growth areas of the leisure market, such as hotels and

With most of the past two years' Peter Jarvis, the veteran chief £500m acquisition programme centred executive of Whitbread, is on such areas, the restaurants and leisure division saw profits soar from £88.3m to £122m.

David Thomas, Mr Jarvis's successor, was yesterday confidently looking forward to Whitbread becoming the UK's leading leisure company.

Certainly a large chunk of this year's capital expenditure budget, which is likely to top the £409m spent in 1996/97, will go into leisure projects, including 19 new David Lloyd leisure centres and another 35 Bella Pasta

If Mr Thomas can maintain the juicy rates of return the group is already existing sites and 16 per cent on new ones - the 250 new openings planned this year should please shareholders as well as corporate egos.

Meantime, profits of £355m would put the shares, up 6.5p at 796.5p, on a forward price-earnings ratio of 15. With little sign of the consumer boom petering out and Labour making positive noises about the industry, that still looks reasonable value.

RBS looks for southern deals

onsidering its position as a rock-solid pillar of the Edinburgh financial establishment, the Royal Bank of Scotland's share price has given shareholders a pretty hairy ride over the past year. Takeover talk, with Royal alternately touted as both bidder and target, is the main driver. although neither scenario seems a rational explanation for a share price that has bounced around since last summer between 630p and 469p.

George Mathewson, Royal's forthright chief executive, dismisses rumours Halifax has the bank in its sights. He is probably right given Royal's strength in corporate work, which would hold little attraction for the retail giant. In fact, it is hard to see who might afford the bank, which is valued at £5bn, without severe earnings dilution.

As for Royal as a bidder, no secret is made of its desire to snap up a building society. With 35 per cent of the Scottish market, it desperately needs to acquire a customer base south of the border through which to cross-sell its other insurance and long-term savings products, but the prices at which the former mutuals are coming to the market rules out any imminent deal.

Profits in the half-year to March of £369m, a 23 per cent increase on last year's £301m, were solid enough, especially given the second duff year in a row for Direct Line, the telephone insurance arm. Profits of £8m were an improvement on last time's £5m, but a miserable return on capital. Claims the motor insurance cycle is set for a sharp uptick appear to be a triumph of hope over experience. Elsewhere, UK banking was boosted

by an impressive 4-point decline in the ratio of Royal's cost base to its income, although the roll-out of the joint venture with Tesco, sensible as the move is, will increase overheads in the second half. The US arm, Citizens, looks in remarkably good shape considering the record thus far of UK banks' diversifications in America. On the basis of forecast profits of around £730m this year and earnings per share of 50p. the shares, down 0.5p at 585p, trade on 12 times earnings. With a dividend yield of 4.6 per cent, that is about fair.

Dalgety shares in dog house after profits warning.

Nigel Cope City Correspondent

Dalgety, the pet food business that owns the Felix and Winalot brands, issued a profits warning yesterday caused by production problems in its pet foods operation, the on-going impact of the BSE crisis and the strength of sterling.

It is to cut the dividend by a third while the head of the group's pet food division is to leave with immediate effect. Dalgety shares fell sharply from 310.5p to 269p as the company said full-year profits would now "fall short of the first half". City analysts cut their current year profit forecasts from over £100m to £80m.

They said the problems did not necessarily mean Dalgety's £440m deal to buy the Quaker pet food business two year ago was a mistake, Julian Hardwick at ABN Amro Hoare Govett said: "They clearly paid way too much for it but that was clear at the outset. What they have to do is manage it effectively." Dalgety's chairman. Sir Denys Henderson, said: "The continued underperformance of our pet foods business has led

us to conclude that tough action

is required to ensure that we are

on track to meet our financial targets, albeit late. As a result of management changes and cost reduction programmes, Dalgety will make a £36m exceptional charge in its

current year accounts. This includes a £27m charge in the pet foods division where technical problems affected production capacity in two plants. Nigel Garrow has resigned as chief executive of the division and from the Dalgety board. He was paid £179,000 last year and was employed on a two-year contract. He is expected to receive full compensation of close to £400,000.

Hugh Donaldson has been appointed in his place. He has been working with the group as

a consultant since March when he joined Dalgety after spells with Zeneca and ICI.

In the agribusiness division. the prolonged impact of BSE has led to a substantial fall in demand for cattle feed with sales 25-30 per cent lower. The market is expected to remain depressed and £6m has been. provided for further plant closures and cost reductions. Dalgety hopes to achieve £2m of

annual cost savings as a result. The dividend will be "rehased" to "not less than" by a share against 9p last year."

Dalgety expanded into the pet foods market with the Quaker deal. Though the company has been expanding market share, it is a difficult market, dominated by Mars whose Pedigree Petfoods controls brands such as Whiskas.

Dalgety sold its consumer foods businesses such as Golden Wonder Crisps and Homepride sauces to pay for

Profits slump at Tate & Lyle after review

Magnus Grimond

Larry Pillard, the new chief executive of Tate & Lyle, yesterday announced a slump in interim profits at the sugar group following a review of the business. Combined with a series of trading problems, the pre-tax total crashed from £168m to £30.4m in the 26 weeks to March.

Analysts were largely braced for bad news from the group. which warned in January that it would be hit by low prices for high-fourtose sweeteners in the US and the strength of sterling. The shares fell 5.5p to 448.5p yesterday.

The main impact on the figures was an exceptional charge

es in the wake of the review by £34.9m in the first reduction in Mr Pillard, who took over in November.

He has instigated a £29.9m reorganisation of the group's North American activities, including the Staley corn sweetener business he used to run. which has seen profits fall in the face of over-capacity and fierce competition in the industry.

Mr Pillard said the plan was to consolidate some of the service functions in Tate's five operations in the US, which had previously been decentralised. There would be redundancies in areas like head offices, but they would not be huge. The £20m cash cost is expected to be recouped from savings within two years.

asset values since the development programme was initiated in 1990 amidst high hopes.

Political and economic problems in Eastern Europe have resulted in refining assets in Odessa in the Ukraine and in Bulgaria being written down. In China, similar difficulties with the government have caused a write off in a cane refining venture.

However, the group remains committed to emerging markets and Mr Pillard said operations through the Amylum joint venture in Bulgaria were expected

to start again soon. Mr Pillard said he had "taken a hard look at all the businesses". Operations which failed to beat Other areas facing the knife—the target of a 20 per cent return of £83.2m following a series of are emerging market opera-write-downs at group business- tions, where Tate is writing off over time, he suggested.

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PowerGen and Siemens in gas venture

PowerGen and Siemens are to invest £150m in a joint venture to develop a UK centre for the testing and demonstration of the latest gas-fired power station technology. Siemens is already supplying PowerGen and several smaller UK generators with turbines following the "dash for gas", which has seen a large number of gas-fired combined-cycle stations constructed. The new facility will be built on the site of PowerGen's Cottam power station in Nottinghamshire and will start operating in 1999, employing

BAA consortium to run Melbourne airport

A consortium involving BAA, the airports group that owns Heathrow and Gatwick, was yesterday confirmed as the successful bidder for Australia's Melbourne airport. Australia's Pacific Airports Corporation, in which BAA will have a 25 per cent stake, is paying £625m to the Australian government for a 50-year lease to run the airport. The other consortium partners are Australian Mutual Provident Society and Axiom Funds

Jacques Vert shares crash

Shares in Jacques Vert, the clothing company, crashed 13p to 26.5p after it warned that results for the financial year to 3 May were likely to be significantly below market expectations. The retail division has performed below expectations despite a like-for-like sales growth of 18 per cent in the second half. However, the performance of concessions in House of Fraser stores has been "very

The company also announced a spate of management changes. Brian Heilborn is made managing director of Jacques Vert (Retail), Peter Taylor, managing director of the wholesale division, is appointed to the main board as managing director, wholesale, and Paul Allen, group financial controller, becomes finance director-designate.

HTV plea for licence timetable

HTV Group, the ITV contractor for Wales and the West of England, has called on the Independent Television Commission to publish its timetable for licence renewal and to ensure that Channel 3 licensees are reviewed on an individual basis. In his address to the company's annual meeting, Louis Sherwood, chairman said; "If ITV and HTV are to be able to plan accurately for the next licence period then we do need to know soon precisely what these future licence payments will be. Importantly we would also urge them [ITC] to confirm that they will review each licence on an individual basis.

"There may be a temptation to take a macro-view of ITV's prospects in the years ahead. That will not do, he said. "What is required is a detailed analysis of each region's past revenue trends and then, looking forward, a careful analysis of what the future holds, region by region."

	Compai	ıy Resul	lts	
	Turnover £	Pre-tax E	EPS	Dividenti
INM Amvesco (Q)	- (-)	29.74 (15.25m)		- (-)
Bell Cablemedia (Q)	45.2m (16m)	-49.74m -19 5m)	-12pp (-6p)	- (-)
Betway (I)	154m (12\$m)	17.9m (12.3m)	10.9p (7.4p)	2.70p (2.55p)
Bertann Holdings (F)	2.6m (3m)	15.74m (35 3m)		4p (8p)
BSky Breadcasting ((1)	913m (1bn)	81 58m (71.8m)	4.8p (4.2p)	- (-)
Electronics dentique (SP)	74.1m (59.5m)	0.5m -8.5m)	0.19p (-4.83p)	तर्वे (धर)
Hymex Cablescount (Q)	46.53n (35.52m)	-19.58m -20m)	- (+)	· (·)
Postiner Securities (F)	6.8 (3.9m)	2.14 (1.11m)	8.4p (5.2p)	1.75p (-)
Phytopharm (I)	9m (0.54m)	-1 19m (-0.13m)	-3.86p (Q.64p)	nt (-)
Polydos (F)	0 62m (0.73m)	-0.54m (-0.26m)	-3 Sp (-1.9p)	MÎ (-)
Acres Erans (P)	7.5to (8.8m)	10,94m (7.25m)	17.17p (10.04p)	4.0p (4.0p)
RB of Scotland (1)	-{-}	359m (301m)	24.3p (21.3p)	6.25p (21,3p)
Salmsbury (F)	14.3bn (13.5bn)	609m (712m)	22.0p (26.8p)	12.3p (12.1p)
Este & Lute (I)	2.3hn (2.4hn)	30 Am (168 2m)	4 Sn /26 7nt	5.3n (-n)

Willis Corroon hit by strong pound

Magnus Grimond

Analysts looked set to cut forecasts for Willis Corroon after the insurance broking group added its name to the list of UK companies hit by the strength of sterling. The currency problems shaved £4.4m from pre-tax profits, which sank 5 per cent to £45.7m in the first quarter of the year. The shares fell 4p to 144p, despite news that a 1.65p dividend would be paid in both the

first and second quarters. John Reeve, chairman, said the results were in line with expectations at the start of the year. As well as the pound, he blamed intensifying competition between underwriters which has led to further falls in premium rates". He described the underlying performance as "satisfac-

tory" and said there had been "encouraging growth in a number of key business segments".

The company said changes in the business mean some of the profits will be shifted into a later part of the year. The currency effect is also greater in the first quarter because a more of the overseas revenues in the group's specialty business fall in that period. Stripping out currency, underlying profits were up 4 per cent on brokerage and fee revenues from continuing operations down 7 per cent at £184m. But one analyst said: "It

wasn't a very upbeat statement", highlighting the "pedestrian underlying progress and fairly mixed trading statement". He suggested analysts were likely to cut their 1997 profit forecasts from around £95m-£98m.

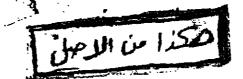
Midland Bank

NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS

NEW INTEREST RATE

With effect from 6th May 1997 our Base Rate has been increased by 0.25% to 6.25% p.a.

Member HSBC Group



market report/shares

Data Bank FTSE 100 4537.5 +18.2 **FTSE 250** 4519.0 _ -1.2 FTSE 350 2210.3 <u>+</u>7.0 SEAQ VOLUME 803.1m shares, 54,202 bargains Gilts Index 96.64 -0.16 Share spotlight Cairn i Energy

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Cable & Wireless expected to clinch deal with China

The stock market is con- 40 percent if it wants a peacevinced Cable & Wireless is on ful ride after the Chinese the verge of clinching a deal claim the colony. In return it with the Chinese government over its controlling stake in

Hong Kong Telecom. ring in with its profits for the year ending March. With Hong Kong's heady days of luctant to lower its stake be-Eastern role.

Although Cable is unlikehopes it will be able at least to give a clear indication of the outline of its proposed

would be allowed a privileged position in the development of the vast - and Today HKT is expected to potentially lucrative - Chinese

empire soon to come to an in-glorious end time is pressing on Cable to reshape its Far the validity of its argument. If it is able to keep control of HKT and still dial into the ly to be a position to resolve the problem today, there are resent a considerable victory for chief executive Dick

Brown. HKT is thought to be on deal with the HKT figures or when it presents its results to HK\$11.5bn; Cable should manage £1.35bn compared Cable has 58 per cent of with £1.26bn. Its shares rose HKT with the Chinese au- 14.5p to 496.5p; they touched

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN stock market reporter of the year

tinued its Blair run with Footsie closing at another peak, up 18.2 points at 4.537.5. Earlier, before a cash inflow. Recldit & Colman subdued Wall Street encoursubdued Wall Street encouraged profit-taking, it was 42.7 could be the answer; it rose 11.5p to 884p, a high. higher. Supporting shares remained on the sidelines with the FTSE 250 off 1.2.

Imperial Chemical Industries was the day's blue chip star, up 43p to 757.5p. There had been fears its £4.9bn takeover of Unilever's speciality chemical business would prompt a rights issue.

But ICI is funding the deal

Unilever shaded 3.5p to

Rexam, the packaging and paper group, produced an encouraging trading state-ment, gaining 14p to 305p, but Dalgety collected the wooden spoon with a 41.5p fall to 269p as it warned on profits and said its year's dividend would be cut by a third.

BSkyB, at one time up 20p, had to settle for a 5.5p gain

its institutional dinners last night with 18 fund managers meeting chief executive Andrew Teare at London's Howard Hotel.

Cobham, the engineer, put on 13.5p to 645p following the analysis' visit and despite a Merrill Lynch upgrade Manchester United celebrated its Premiership achievement with a 22p fall to 639p.

Aston Villa, the latest football club to arrive, enjoyed a 64.5p and the warrants 9.5p to confident and will continue heady premium - at least until half time. Placed at 1,100p the shares touched 1,200p but closed at 1,070p. Shield Diagnostic had another ill-at-ease session. The

shares, 805p a little while ago, fell 45p to 292.5p. Cairn Energy was another

Clothing group Jacques Vert Resources, the oil explorer was another casualty, falling which touched 135.5p last 13p to 26.5p following a profit warning.

British Dredging gained 18p to 152.5p as Gratton, a builders merchant, paid £6.3m for nearly 25 per cent. The stake was built by a mys-exploration, seem unable to terious Panamanian company,

Redbird. in demand, gaining 11p to \$30m. PAR says it remains 39.5p. There is talk that a its search for oil and gas. progress report could appear The shares fell 4p to 48.5p.

ny and join the board, de-cided to trim his stake to 6.6 its leisure side, and it has received one known offer of

likely at Pan Andean

year only to crash to 33.5p when its Bolivian well was judged to be uncommercial. PAR and BHP, the Australian group which has

financed most of the agree a new partnership so PAR will take full control of Petra Diamonds was back the block and data costing

Ex-Lands eased 0.5p to Interesting situation at 20.75p as Martin Myers, the Barr & Wallace Arnold. It property man expected to inject assets into the compa-

250 MJJASONDJFMAM	HKT with the Chinese authorities accounting for approaching 10 per cent. There have been suggestions it will be forced to cut its holding to	14.5p to 496.5p; they touched 546p when the group was involved in abortive merger talks with BT last year. The rest of the market con-	But ICI is funding the deal through a loan and also plans to sell assets worth £3bn, including its 62.4 per cent	had to settle for a 5.5p gain at 601p after it duly pro- duced its digital television link-up with BT and others. Rank, the leisure group,	Cairn Energy was another high flyer under pressure. It lost 14p to 531p against 634.5p in March. There are.	cided to trim his stake to 6.6 received one known offer of per cent. On Ofex, Energiser, the health food group, jumped again – 125p to 975p. The series es set, and it has received one known offer of £35m, it would be left with its motor operations, which made profits of £4.6m last year.
MJ J A S O N D J F M A M MJ J A S O N D J F M A M MJ J A M A M A M MJ J A S O N D J F M A M MJ J A M A M A M MJ J A M	Description Description	546p when the group was involved in abortive merger talks with BT last year. The rest of the market constitute of the ma	through a loan and also plans to sell assets worth £3bn, including its 62.4 per cent interest in its Australian arm. 1867	at 601p after it duly produced its digital television link-up with BT and others. Rank, the leisure group, 1997	high flyer under pressure. It lost 14p to 531p against 634.5p in March. There are, apparently, shares sloshing apparently, shares sloshing before the state of th	Per cent. On Ofex, Energiser, the health food group, jumped again – 125p to 975p. Share Price Data Press are in staring except where stated. The yield is last year's "vidend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/semmys, yield to the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, encluding exceptional items. Other details: Fix rights x Ex-dividend a Ex at u Unissted Securines Meriest 9 Suspended pp Partly Pead pm Nil Peid Shares. ‡ Allel Stock The Independent Index The Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0891 123 333. Anyone with a tone-dial telephone can use this service. For a detailed description of The Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0891 123 333. Marriest leaders: Top 20 volumes Bisck Veritio Stock Veritio
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Expect something dramatic in Brown's first Budget

ur new Chancellor seems to like springing surprises. Following his great coup in granting the Bank of England its independence this week, it is a fair het that there are more on

We await news on the membership of the Bank's new Monetary Policy Committee, and the US-style Council of Economic Advisors, and there will no doubt he some unexpected appoint-

The Chancellor also has be-tween two and four important international meetings before the Budget, depending on whether it is held in mid-June or the start of July: the annual meeting of OECD ministers, an EU finance ministers' meeting, the EU Inter-Governmental conference, and the G7's world economic summit. Plenty of scope for fresh initiatives on an admiring world stage, per-haps on the international devel-

But the big question is what kind of Budget we are going to get. The smoke signals indicate that this is not yet a done deal, with continuing discussions between the Chancellor's and Prime Minister's offices about what measures would be consistent with the spirit as well as the letter of Labour's

It is clear, though, that Mr Brown would like to go ahead with something more radical than the limited package of windfall tax. jobs programme and cut in VAT on fuel. The something would involve raising the tax burden more than already planned - for increases inherited from Kenneth Clarke are still due to come into effect, notably through the phas-

ing out of profit-related pay.

It is easy to see the Government's dilemma. Although Labour was extremely careful during the election campaign not to rule out all forms of tax rise its promise applied only to basic rates of income tax - the broader message was that middling voters had nothing to fear financially from a Labour government.



DianeCoyle

Income taxes, allowances and all, must be out of bounds. Any changes would have a theme of long-termism, doing the difficult thing now for eventual economic gain

The first Budget cannot turn around and snatch more from their pay-packets without a serious loss of political credibility -as Gavyn Davies argued in his column in The Independent this week. Surely two months is too

soon to allow disillusion to set in? On the other hand, Labour has also made great promises on longterm improvements to the economy, which will involve fundamental tax reform. At the same time, almost anybody you can

The industry lobbies, and those economists prone to gloom about the outlook for growth as exports slow down, are desperate for any relief from the strong pound. They hope that if taxes go up more than planned, interest rates will

not need to rise as much as feared. Other experts argue that this kind of fiscal fine-tuning has never worked in the past and would be a bad old habit to fall back into. But Government revenues still need to be higher to close the structural hole in the public

Borrowing is falling sharply, but is much higher than it should but is much nigher than it should be at this stage. They argue there is also a case for finding a bit more revenue as insurance against the bits of sticking plaster Mr Clarke applied to the government finances falling off. After all, Treasury officials freely describe the plans set out last November as "demanding" - mandarin for having a snowball's chance in hell

With these two varieties of professional support and an ambitious programme for the long-term shake-up of the British economy, it is no wonder Mr Brown is tempted to opt for a radical Budget. He hinted as much in his announcement earlier this week. While stressing that nothing in Labour's manifesto required extra spending and taxes, he said we would have to wait and see whether he decided the fiscal

stance needed tightening.

The vaunted inspection of the government books and planned fundamental review of expenditure, along with the switch to commercial-style accounts in the public sector due by the end of the century, could all provide rationales for more dramatic action. Announcements on these are due imminently.

How could this dilemma be resolved? Income taxes, allowances and all, must be out of bounds. Any changes would have a theme

think of is urging the Chancellor to tighten fiscal policy for one reason or another.

of long-termism, doing the difficult thing now for eventual economic gain. The most likely bets are:

An announcement about phasing out tax relief on mortgage interest. Bad news for home owners, even though its value has dwindled over the years, but it could be just about presented as not being a change in income tax. Economists would unanimously acclaim this move for removing a distortion that makes UK house prices more expensive. It could also prevent a damaging housing boom gaining ground. And it would save more than £2.5bn a year.

☐ Welfare-to-work measures, on which the Treasury is already dusting off its research. The central problem for many people claiming benefits is that the loss of benefit far exceeds the amount they can hope to earn if they get a job. The withdrawal of benefit needs to be tapered more gently

for the low-paid.
Unfortunately, this costs money
in the short-term - just as the schemes to get the young unemployed into work will absorb receipts from the windfall tax. It is only later that there are savings to the Exchequer. But with Mr Brown's team eager to take the long view, additional welfare-towork measures would be no

☐ The necessary funds could be raised via higher "green" taxes or a higher corporate tax burden. Mr Brown is known to favour a fundamental overhaul of corporate taxation. This could not be achieved in the next few weeks. But in the meantime, the Government could decide to limit tax relief on companies' interest payments, a potentially big source of revenues as it costs £7bn a year in total.

This would add up to a Budget genuinely far more radical than any recent package, it would favour the have-nots over the haves, and it would not blatantly breach the spirit of Labour's manifesto. If the Chancellor can stage the drama, chances are he will.

Today's results, with Chinese titbits or cream cheese

The ebullient Sir Michael Angus, chairman of Whitbread, bounced up to one of my colleagues at the results press conference vesterday and assured him: "I think you're better off here than Sainsbury's -

the food is slightly better." It was, of course, Sainsbury's day for declaring results as well. Our retail correspondent happened to be at the rival Sainsbury event, and was able to confirm Sir Michael's claim, describing Sainsbury's fare as "a selection of Chinese titbits prawn toast, spring rolls, that kind of thing. The Australian wine was good, though."

The reason for Sir Michael's claim about Whitbread's hospitality was revealed later, the chairman's wife Isobel supplied home-made cheese for the reception. In fact it was Cerney cheese, creamy with a black skin, which Isobel makes in the village of North Cerney, near Circucester. Sir Michael describes it as "a usefully loss-making enterprise (the cheese, not the village).

Meanwhile Sainsbury seems to be more concerned with recent political developments than with providing lashings of free grub for journos. In particular David Sainsbury, chairman, appears to be very impressed with New Labour's tightly controlled PR machine.

It became obvious yesterday that Sainsbury had discovered its very own version of Peter Mandelson in Dominic Fry, head of PR, who recently parachuted in from Eurotunnel.

Mr Fry allowed just four questions to be posed to the chairman by the phalanx of City analysts at the morning meeting. much to the latter's surprise. Usually such affairs last far longer Mr Sainsbury may have bankrolled the Social Democrats in the 1980s. but his present behaviour is very much New Labour: "Managing the Message,"

While long lines of weary, shellshocked former Tory ministers trudge around the City's headhunters, desperately seeking a new job, it looks as though even nonexec positions are unavailable for

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



Sir Michael Angus: Bullish about his wife's cheese-making

suffering from such pariah status can cheer themselves up with the knowledge that it works the other way; Geoffrey Robinson has had to resign his well-paid position as non-executive chairman of TransTec, the Birmingham-based castings maker, since he has been made Paymaster General in the

new Government. Mr Robinson has been the MP for Coventry for some years, which hasn't prevented him from also chairing AGIE (UK) and sitting on the board of Yamato Lock Inspection Systems. Whether the latter two posts will have to go as well following his elevation to the Treasury remains to be seen. And will he retain his 17 per cent stake

in TransTec? It will be interesting to see if Tony Blair's anti-sleaze campaign will result in Labour MPs having to cut corporate ties completely.

Far away from the parochial excitement of the new Government, Grand Prix ace Niki Lauda is set to address a big venture capital bash in Barcelona this summer.

Mr Lauda will not, however, be regaling visitors to the European Venture Capital Association

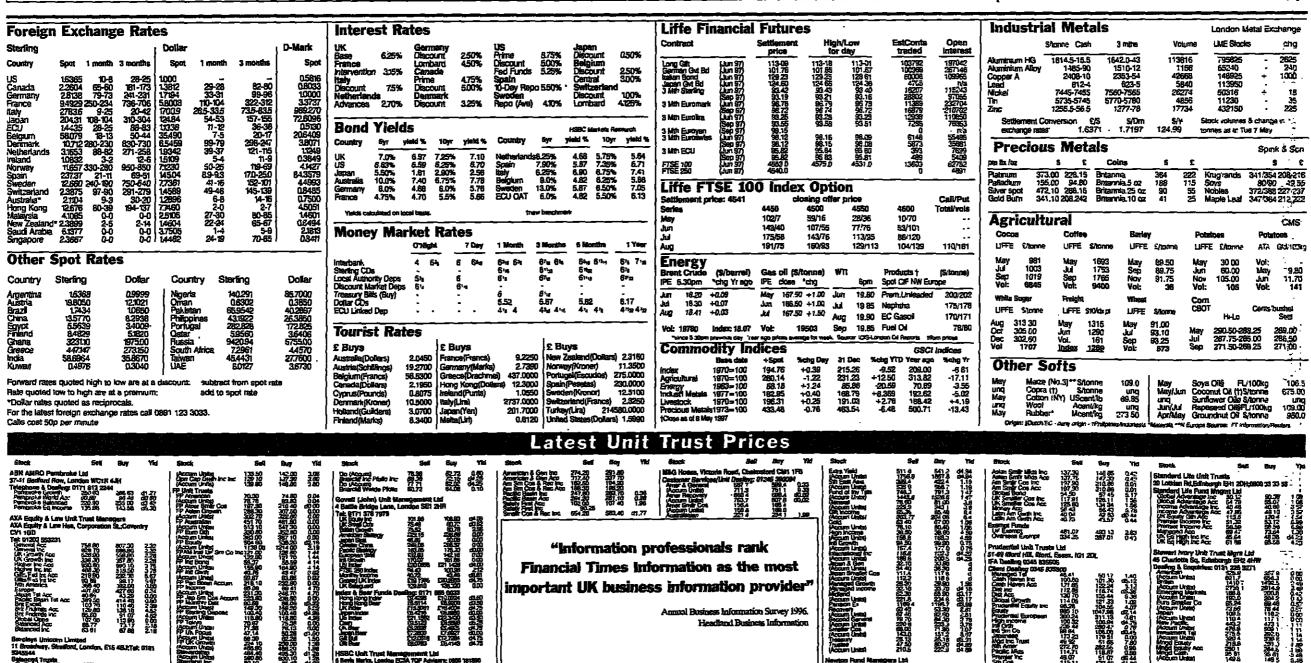
Symposium with tales of derring-do on the racetrack. Instead the threetime Formula 1 champion will be speaking as chairman of Lauda Air. the Austrian airline he founded in 1979, with a speech titled: "Strategies for surviving in an increasingly competitive market."

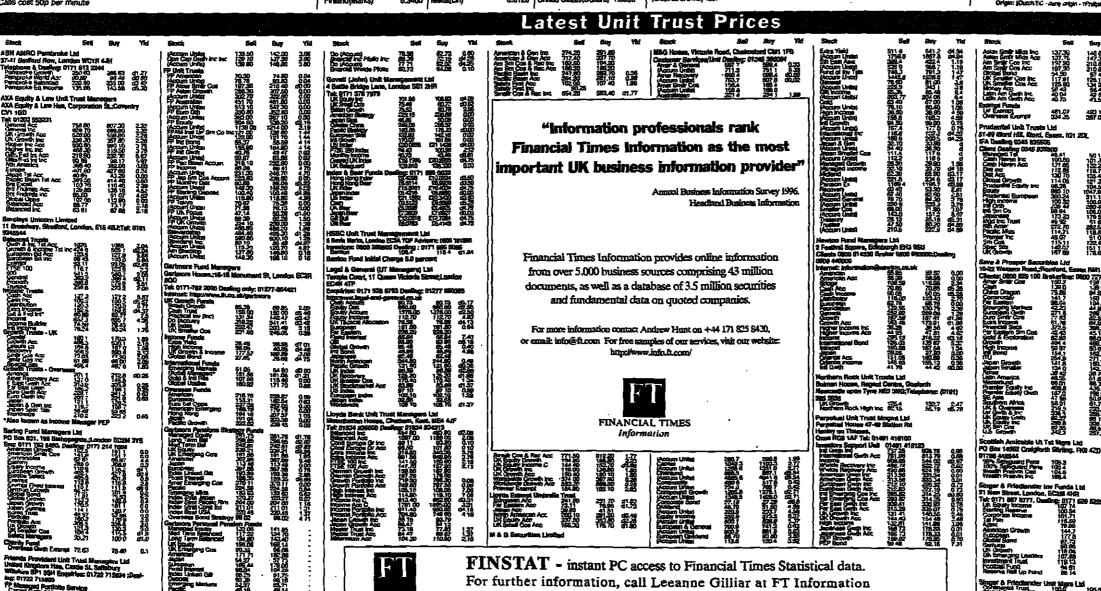
Ken Bignall, who left Barclays in 1995 after 37 years with the bank. has popped up as managing director of Visa UK. Mr Bignall rose to head Barclays Financial Services, which was subsequently broken up, with functions reorganised into different departments. This left him without an apparent job two years ago so he left, a move he says he doesn't

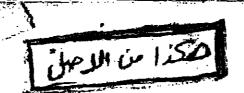
regret at all.
Described by colleagues as
well-liked and on the marketing ball", Mr Bignall is a lover of fast cars and football. Since leaving Barclays he has been helping to set up the Financial Industry Foundation, a venture launched by financial publisher Michael Lafferty. His new job at Visa UK is based in Kensington and will involve dealing with Visa's owners. the banks that issue the cards.

John Willcock

CHESTER







on +44 171-825-8430 or email: leeanne.gilliar@ft.com

Chinese heese

Top Cees On song for Sangster BUSINESS Racing GREG WOOD reports from Chester For most people on a race-

pourse, Lady Luck is just an oc-rasional acquaintance, but in the case of Robert Sangster, she is close and lifelong friend.

Even when he is just standing around minding his own busiess, it seems, she is out there porking hard on his behalf, as became clear after Top Cees parried the Sangster silks to suc-

Yesterday.
This, backers will surely recall, was the horse who won the same race two years ago, only to receive what might be termed a villain's welcome from the Roodeye racegoers. They felt that a defeat at Newmarket immediately prior to Chester owed little to lack of ability and rather more to the desire of Lynda Ramsden, Top Cees' trainer, to avoid a penalty at Chester. So annoyed was Alan Leonard, the gelding's owner, at their lack of warmth and the blast of media criticism which followed, that he decided to sell a 50 per cent share in Top Cees. The man who bought it

CHESTER

2.10: Bodfaridistinction occupies the

favoured stall against the inside rails

and showed at Thirsk last month

that she has the ability to take ad-

was Sangster, and as a result, he not only added another £15,000 or so to his prize-money account yesterday, but, just for good measure, backed the 11-2 chance as well. Even yesterday, the reception

Top Cees was led back could hardly be called rapturous, but neither owner nor trainer was in a mood to worry. Much the same was true throughout the dizzying passage around the Reodeve, when the only serious danger to Sangster's money was that Jimmy Fortune might lose count of the laps and win the race a circuit too soon, Even when Etterby Park went five lengths clear with half a mile to run. Fortune was still travelling so sweetly that, but for the thick slaps of mud on horse and rider, you would have thought that he had just left the stalls. He reeled the leader in on the turn for home, and had six

lengths to spare at the line. "I thought they were going too fast in the soft ground and I knew that they would come back to me." Fortune said. "It was just a matter of steering him." This, though, is not as straightforward as it sounds, as several of Top Cees' work riders have discovered.



Tail enders: But Top Cees (3rd left) progressed through the pack to win yesterday's Chester Cup

If he were a person, he'd be do-

ing it with a smile on his face."

in the weights since his success

two years ago, it says much for

Ramsden's talents that she

could coax so much improve-

ment from an ageing gelding. It

is part of a trainer's art to be

able to "get a horse handi-

capped", or in other words,

persuade the handicapper to

drop it to a winning mark, and few do so more skilfully than

Ramsden, as Bishops Court,

who cantered home in the

Since Top Cees had risen 15th

"He's not an easy horse to ride at home because he tries to drop everyone," his trainer said. "Jimmy came off when he whipped round on the gallops earlier this year, and he's an absolute nightmare to eatch when he does get loose. Kieren [Falion] fell off him before the Cesarewitch last year and he ran

straight off down to the village." For all this, however, Ramsden is more than willing to for-give him. "You can't help but love him because it's just a game," she said. "There's no malice in him, he's not trying to shirk the issue, he just likes to test the people on top of him.

sprint handicap, demonstrated just an hour later. In the intervening race, the

Chester 3.40

Home _____ C __ H __ L _ _ T

Soprise Mission 7-2 7-2 4-1 3-1

That Man Again 41 41 41 92

Zierr's Demoer 5-1 9-2 5-1 B-1

Supplied Depart 15-2 84 7-1 7-1

Selfundarik Plear 15-2 7-1 9-1 8-1

11-2 11-2 9-2 **8-1**

Cheshire Oaks, Kyle Rhea produced an 11-length beating of Grapevine which, if she were to be supplemented for the Oaks itself, would make her a 12-1 chance with the Tote to win the fillies' Classic.

The Ribblesdale Stakes at Royal Ascot is a far more likedestination, however, not least because Henry Cecil, her trainer, is already responsible for Reams Of Verse, the antepost favourite for Epsom. William Hill took her stablemate's victory as a positive sign and cut Reams Of Verse to 7-1 from 8-1, but odds of 12-1 are still available from the Tote.

HAMILTON

HYPERION

2.00 Lord Sky 2.30 Mamma's Boy 3.00 Karis-

ma 3.30 in Good Faith 4.05 Alezal 4.35 Sun Mark

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High best for 1m to 1m 1f.

Right-land undulating course with pear-shaped loop.

Race-course is north of town on B7071. Hamilton West railway station (service from Glaspow) is 1m away. ADRIESTON: Chib 512; Grandstand and Podicick 57 (54 for OAPs, disabled & students, \$10 for couples); accompanied under-16s free all enclosures. CAR PARK: Free.

BLINKERED PIEST TIME: None.

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: All On (3.00) won at Musedburgh on Thursday.

Musselburgh on Thursday. LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Brouze Maquette (4:35) seri

186 miles by R Simpson from West Buckland, Somerset; Golden Hadeer (3,00) & Klagchip Boy (3,30) sem: 360 miles by M Ryon from Newmarket, Sulfolk; Alexal (4,06) sent 360 miles by W Jarvis from Newmarket, Sulfolk;

2.00 CLYDE VALLEY HANDICAP (CLASS E)

7 2330-3 READY TEDDY (8) Mass I. Perratt 4 8 7 ... O Urbhan 10
8 200-06 TERRI BLUES (4) I Golde 10 8 2 ... I Williams 4
9 003-62 STANDAY MAS. TOO (8) (CD) Mass I. Perratt 7 1 2 ... I Nemondy 5
10 000-00 RASTRIKE COMMERT. (4) D. Noien 4 7 10 ... P. Brandey (7) 3

2.30 TATTERSALLS MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (CLASS E) £4,025 added 2YO 5f

SHARP CRACKER (7) M Johnston 8 3....

£4,025 added 5f

320103 LORD SKY (4) (D) A Saley 6 8 10

GOING: Son (heavy in places). STALLS: Ontside, except 1m (moide rail). DRAW ADVANTAGE: High best for 1m to 1m 1f.

Yalaietanee leads raid

British horses form a formidable team for the first two French Classics, which are to be shown live on BBC2's Sunday Grand-stand this weekend. Yalaietanee, Fantastic Fellow and possibly Deadly Dudley tackle the Poule d'Essai des Poulains, while Red Camellia, Nightbird, Scebe and Star Profile run in the Poule d'Essai des Pouliches. Peter Chapple-Hyam's Sandown winner Voyagers Quest tackles the Prix Lupin on the same card.

Hills is Dee man to follow with Musalsal

RICHARD EDMONDSON

Just after they have taken the Cellophane off their diaries at the beginning of the year Robert Sangster and Barry Hills turn to early May and put red ink around the Chester meeting.

Sangster likes the Roodeye as it is his home course and he marked this year's pilgrimage with Top Cees's victory in the Chester Cup yesterday. Hills is the training maestro of Deva, where he likes to take the Cheshire air and buckets of prize money.

The Lambourn man's most reliable fundraiser arrives today in the shape of the Dee Stakes, a Listed race he has won four times since 1985. Hills makes sure he does not bring his worst horses here, as the victories of Blue Stag, who went on to be placed in the Derby, and the subsequent Irish Derby winner,

Sir Harry Lewis, testify. Today's carrier of the faith is MUSALSAL (nap 2.40), who is available at 50-1 with William Hill for the Derby. The Sadler's Wells colt virtually pulled his teeth out early on during his reappearance at Doncaster, but eventually showed a decent turn of foot to win. His Leicester victory last season also looks more persuasive following yesterday's Cheshire Oaks victory of the runner-up that day, Kyle

3.00 SCOTTISH EQUITABLE/JOCKEYS ASSO-CLATION HANDICAP (CLASS D) £7,000

3,30 BOLLINGER CHAMPAGNE HANDICAP (AM-

5-0500 Vest ERM VENTURE: (4) N McVestr 4 9 10.

All D Dictensson (4) 6
55-000 RATTLE (24) D Noten 4 9 7.

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00-00 RATTLE (24) D Noten 4 9 7.

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OG-00 FRIENDLY NOISSET (120) I Haldone 7 9 7 Like 0 McPhail (4) 7

Ludy, 7-1 Classi Up., 12-1 Roar On Tour, 18-1 Rattle, 20-1 others

4.05 BELLSHILL AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3YO 1m 65yds

4.35 EAGLESHAM LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 1m 4f

050-14 KATHEYNES PET (22) (D) (BF) Mis M Reveloy 4 B 11.

25005- SIX CLERKS (113) J FacCorold 4 8 11 ...

ATEURS) (CLASS F) £3,500 1m 65yds

added 1m 5f

Rhea. Musalsal can now beat the other form horse of the race, Barnum Sands, who was fourth in the Feilden Stakes at Newmarket, a Listed contest which produced Tuesday's Chester Vase winner, Panama City.

The Ormonde Stakes contains one of the naughtiest horses in training. If Election Day was a schoolboy he would have worn out the headmaster's slipper, such is his errant behaviour on the racecourse,

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Musaisai (Chester 2.40) **NB: Election Day** (Chester 3.10)

where jockeys regularly have to take the car - to him. This is not to say that Laction Day (next best 3.10) is without ability, and his most compliant days occur

when the going is soft.
That Man Again (3.40) races from the front and with his advantageous draw he may be able to skirt around this circuit like a greyhound bunny. The chestnut is 7lb lower than when winning at Haydock in 1995 and showed his most promising form for some time on his Newbury reappearance. The course looks ideal too for Antonia's Double (2.10), whose outside berth is not insurmountable in such a small field.

RESULTS

CHESTER 2.10: 1. PERFECT PARADIGM (I. Dettori)
11-8 las; 2. Filirting Around 11-2: 3. Intiyati 11-2: 7 ran. 2r., 16. U Gosdon, Nowmarket). Fota: £2.00; £1.50, £2.30. DF;
£4.20. CSF: £8.23.
2.40: 1. ONLY FOR GOLD (K Darley) 4-1;
2. Diffigence 5-6 fax; 3. Chamito 7-1. 7 ran.
1/4, 3. U Berry, Cockertamil. Fota: £3.50;
£1.40, £1.50. DF; £2.60. CSF: £7.51. NR;
Kolly.

£1.40, £1.50. DF: £2.60. CSF: £7.51. NR: Kelby.
3.10: 1 TOP CEES (I Fortune) 11-2; 2. Ethicky Park 8-1; 3. The Jamah 16-1. 12 ran. 100-30 fav Carnon Can (4th). 10. hd. (Mrs. J. Ramsden. Thresh., Tote: £8.50; £2.30, £2.40, £5.20, DF: £27.60. CSF: £46.83. Threast: £624.85. Tor: £174.80.
3.45: 1. KYLE RHEA (K Falon) 9-4 fav; 2. Grapevine 8-1; 3. Apache Strs 3-1, 5 ran. 11, 25, (H Cool, Newmantet). Tota: £2.60; £1.50, £2.90. DF: £11.80. CSF: £17.47.
4.16: 1. BISHOPS COURT (I Fortune) 5-2 fav; 2. Double-1 9-1; 3. Samssing Spirk 10-1, 13 ran. 2. hd. (Mrs. J Ramoden, Fersik). Tota: £3.50; £1.90, £3.90, £3.50. DF: £33.00. CSF: £26.27. Titest: £186.72. Titest: £1.80.72. Titest: £1.80.72.

CSF: £26.27, Tricast: £186.72, Tric £88.20, NR: Hype Energy.
4.45: 1. BEA'S RUBY U Wenver) 9-4; 2. Radiancy 33-1; 3. Sceptre Ledy 7-4 tav. 10 ran. Nk. 11. (A Balisy, Terporisy), Totar £3.00; £1.10, £7.20; £1.50, DF: £88.30, CSF: £79.43, Tric £34.90, NR: Woodbeck Jackpot: £2,957.40, Place 6: £34.18. Place 5: £23.12.

CHEPSTOW

CHEPSTOW

2.25: 1. SONG OF THE SWORD (M A Rigardd) 10-11 fax, 2. Tignidgar 11-2; 3. Spring Compage 4-1, 8 ran. 3, 24, U Old, Wroughon), Totor 2.20; £1.50, £1.70, £1.10. Dr. £4.60. CSF: £5.89.

2.55: 1. ULTIMATE SMOOTHSE (A P McCoy) 11-2; 2. Alpha Leather 7-1; 3. Mr Poppleton 10-2, 8 ran. Evens tar Gaissay (4th). 3, 1%, (M Ppc, Welleggon). Totar 25.10; £1.60, £3.80, £1.40, Dr. £67.60. CSF: £40.76. Timesst: £346.59.

3.25: 1. FURCHEON GALE (D Morre) 7-2; 2. Banettown BBT 7-2; 3. Black (Church 7-4 fax, 6 ran. 10, 20, (R Curtis, Epson), Totar £5.00; £1.90, £1.60, Dr. £7.60. CSF: £14.22.

\$3.50: 1, HELLO ME MAN (Mr.) 1, Lieveslyn)
9-2; 2. Star Performer 10-1; 3. Khazari
10-1; 4. Lock in The Mirror 12-1. 17 ran.
5-2 fav Fesc Cadet 16Mn; 4, 12, 18 Lieveslyn,
Bargoed). Tothe: £10.00: £1.60, £1.90,
\$3.00, £2.80. DF: £36.00. CSF: £50.99. The
cast: £431,10. Trio: £46.00. NR: Salcombe
Harbour.

cast: £431,10. Trio: £46,00, NR: Selcombe Harbour.

4.30: 1. PHAR TOO TOUCHY (Mr N Harris) 8-11 fay; 2. Savoy 6-4; 3. Archar 12-1.4 ran. 4, 19. (V Darmai, Banstaple). Tota: £160. DF: £1.40. CSF: £2.17.

5.00: 1. BALLINDOO (Mr R Armson) 11-2; 2. Apachae Flower 9-2; 3. Stac-Pollaidin 11-2 8 ran. 100-30 fay Courty Store (50), 1/4, 1. (R Armson, Merbourne). Tota: £4,80: £1,40. £1.60, £2.00. DP: £19.00. CSF: £28.62. Tricest: £130.81, Trio: £13.30. NR: Grosvenor.

Placepot: £84.60. Quadpot: £24.10. Place 6: £74.21. Place 5: £65.27.

UTTOKETER G. 100 L. 100 L.

£3.00, £3.30. DF. £34.00. CSF. £35.65. Troc £145.70. £.20: 1. BLDTOFT (M.A. Fizgerald) 11.4; 2. Mecado 12.1; 3. Flayful Juliet 4.1. 9 res., 94 fev Wordstrath. 7, hd. £5 Collings). Totne: £2.50: £1.40, £2.60, £1.90. DF: £16.50. CSF. £33.48. Tricast: £223.79. Troc £95.10. NR: Maggles Lad. £.50: 1. THE MALAMARMA (M.R. B. Potock) 11.2; 2. Ryusing Cuplet 12.1; 3. Restly Bridgis 9-2. 7 res. 11.10 fev Holland House. 7, 17, (Mec C Saunden). Tothe £7.50; £2.50, £7.10. DF: £98.00. CSF. £56.79.

WETHERBY 6.05: 1. OVERSMAN (F.Leaty) 2-1 jt-fav; 2. Political Mandate 25-1; 3. Nr. Bruno 50-1 7 nn. 2-1 p-ts-Amezing 541. 15, dsz. U RECentel), Sola: £2.90; £1.90, £5.40, DF. £20.10. CSF: £35-80.

2. Mister Oddy 2-1 (av. 3. Leotard 9-4, 4 tan. 3. 1½, (R Naon). Tota: £4.90. DF: £3.80. CSF: £11.50. CSF: £11.50.
7.05: 1. DIDDY RYMER (Richard Guest)
10-1; 2. Boston Man 7-1: 3. Rivesus; 7-1.
12: zan. 3-1 zay China Ming. 3½, 10. Mars S
Smith: Totte: £15.05: £2.30. £2.70. £3.00.
DF: £34.90. CSF: £78.25. Tho: £76.80.

sic hope Lord Of Men, who has not raced for nearly 20 months, is on his way back to the track. The Sheikh Mohammed-owned fouryear-old began last year as a leading fancy for the Derby but suffered a setback and was forced to miss the whole season. "Lord of Men has shown good, solid improve-ment," Gosden said. "We hope to get a run into him soon. He is a Group One winner so I have put him in the Eclipse Stakes."



HYPERION'

vantage. She will need to break smartly, however, as on her outside are fast ones in Antonia's Double

3.40 Ziggy's Dancer

4.15 Knobbleeneeze

4.45 EAGLE CANYON (nap)

his vard has yet to hit form. Firmgoing winner Crystal Hearted will threaten if handling the mud.

3.10: Ela-Aristokrati holds SALMON LADDER on recent Newbury form over 1m 4f, but the longer trip and softer ground should

be in the selection's favour. The lightly raced Royal Court has the potential to figure but a greater threa may be Eva Luna, who is proven at this trip and acts on easy going.

3.40: Despite being drawn in the two outside berths, Surprise Mission and ZIGGV'S DANCER may dominate this. The selection was a short-head behind Surprise Mission at Thirsk three weeks ago, is 3lb better off now, has shown some of his best form over this track and trip and

acts on mud, Pride Of Brixton, who Eachway a fifth the tooks places 1.2.3 has been switched from Geoff Lewis's stable, is well handicapped. win from Sunsheck, but some improvement is likely and this isn't a tough Group Three. Even Luma runs from the front, but the suggestion is the Park Hill winner is beatable on her reap-pearance in the testing going. Moonax has his ground and has been hunding over trips too

Bonden Rose 81 91 81 81 Pitte Of Bidden 12-1 11-1 12-1 9-1 Speed On 14-1 16-1 14-1 12-1 C - Corol, H - William Hd, L - Ladbrokes, T - Kole pergrades it up styring group, indemnals read its global articles between the budget of short for him. His targets are the Cup races and this distance may even be too sharp for him, while the ground looks sure to cause old Further Flight some problems. That leaves the upgraded handicapper Sweethness Reveals, a real mud-loving mare who comfirmed handicap form with Orchestra Stall at Haydook in March, But it is hard to see the flay beautifloyal Court getting only the sex allowance.

Selection: ROYAL COURT

3.40 HILDICKINSON-WAYMAN HALES RATED HANDICAP C4

12360- SPEED ON (221) (D) (P A Deat) H Cardy 4 9 7 01105- TADED (180) (D) U R Good) M Joneston 4 9 6...

- 9 dectared -

9 00-311 SURPRISE MISSION (19) (D) DR Protherony Mis J Ramsden 5 8 4 . Dane Chiefl 8 96

— 9 declared —

Minimum weight: 8st 40. True handlean weight: Surprise Mission 8st 30.

BETTING: 7-2 Surprise Mission, 4-1 That Miss Again, 5-1 Zigg's Dancer, 6-1 Tudeo, 7-1 Selburstpark Riper, Sepretura Decam, 6-1 Rowales Rose, 12-1 Pride Of Brithon, 14-1 Speed On
1996: Arco 5 8 13 R Cochrane 6-1 (Gay Kellesay) drawn (3) 11 ran
FORTM GUIDE

The highly prized inside stall has failen to That Miss Again, who showed all his old speed at Newbury three weeks ago when fourth to Repertory. He has shoped to a lenient mark
and will take the beating if he lasts home in the ground (all wars on the fast). Browden Roses
Istal 2 is another fast-ground specialist, but not so TADED, who loves the soft and weil
anough placed in stall 3 to show these the way home. Mark Johnston's horses are running
well and Tadeo improved last backend to wan in great style at Haydock (beat Ansalman)
and Ascot (beat to The Roof). Franker Dectod has won on Swynford Dream, who has a
chance from stall 4. His best form has been shown in the sucurum, but hey did not the course
well in soft ground less August when caught near the line by Parther. Susprise Mission is the face stall this wins have been on a fast surface and herd to well
to take this from stall 8. Ziggy's Deancer, a close third in this last year, was beaten a short
head by Surprise Mission at Thers't two ournes ago when he raced alone on the far side.
He's 3th better here, but the ourset stall sets him a task. Sellmurstpark Pyer is very fest
and led everywhere but the post at Epsom (6f) lest time. Caught by Lord Otiver, he has a
chance even if sax furlangs suits him better. Speed On should handle the ground being a
son of Sharpo, but the draw (seven) puts me off han.

Selections TADED

4.15 WYNN HANDICAP (CLASS C) £12,000 added 7f 122yds Penalty Value £9,280

1	שו כנים	HERBURN (22) (CU) (Yorkshite Heart Club 1990) P reget 8 IV U W Nyan 18
2	050-44	MY BEST VALENTINE (15) (The Valentines) J White 7 9 13
3	0400-0	DELTA SOLER (USA) (28) (O) (American Connection () P Horss 5 9 7
4	53100	SUE'S RETURN (235) (0) (A L.R Moron) A Janes 5 9 2
5	1253-3	ALBERT THE BEAR (4) (C) (Chrs. Deuters) J Berry 4 9 2
8	0000-4	SUALDICA (16) (Nos) Sweeney) R Hotinghead 4 9 1 Defind 7
7	000-01	IONOREALED MEETE (12) (C) (D) (A Andreas) M Chennon 7 8 13
8		ORANGE PLACE (15) (G.E. Archer) T.J. Neughger 6 8 13T Quien 6
9		DUELLO (5) (H C Promotions Ltd; M Stanstrart 6 B 11
10		BLITE HCPE (USA) (76) (BP) (Ethe Racing Cald) N Tinkler 5 8 8
11		OBERON'S DART (187) (Peter Wage) P Majon 4 8 8 Fortune 15
12		WENTEROBE LAD (2) (CD) Unit Pugh) P D Siens 7 8 5
13	-23334	SOORY TERM (1.5) (D) (J M Bradley) J M Bookey 10 8 5
14	-Q1 8 11	WALK THE BEAT (40) (Ledyswood Pacing Club) M Meade 7 8 4
15	3300-0	PLYING PERMANT (20) (E.A. Hayward) J. M. Boodley 4.8.4
16	562142	GULF SHAADI (5) (D) (The Bibby Hathday Partnersho) E Alson 5 8 3
17	040-20	BAPULSIVE AIR (8) (D) (T A Scottern) E Weymes 5 8 3 L Charact 1
18	4000-6	ERCEPT (28) (P Richardson) G Beiding 4 8 3
		_ 10 startentst _

BETTHIC: 7-1 Suntinch, 6-1 Mnobblemeens, 10-1 Debn Solell, Guif Shandi, Walk The Best, 12-1
Albert The Bear, Duello, Erupt, Impulsion Ak, 14-1 Highbors, Orange Piace, My Best Valentine, Observa's
Dert, Wenthridge Led, 16-1 Effice Hope, Sue's Return, 20-1 others
Thomas Bear, 18-2 - 1 Re Highborn 7 9.7 K Darley 15-2 (P Felgate) drawn (S) 16 ran FOREM CUNDE: Attach, a winner on his second start last year (by five lengths at Doncaster) and with all

Sunitach, a wriner on his second start last year (by five lengths at Doncester) and with all three wins gained with fracide Dettori, has a lengting chance after his seasonal fourth to Another Time over a trip (7t) too for at Pointerfact 16 days ago. But the winner loids to be DELTA SOLEIL, fifth in last year's uncoin and given a chance of the 8th lower mark. Detta Solail draw a blank last term, but he was a smart juvenile and could bounce back after a pleasing showing at Kempton (16t) over a rip too sharp. Empt also contrested that Kempton race won by Eastern Prophets, and he won a nursery in the mud. He's goodly drawn today, but may stiff make the fearer off bottom weight. Knobbleenesse is in top form after his Rippon drukes 12 days ago. He has a good draw and is still well handicapped after easily heating Doelto on the course last season. Duelto has his ground this time and shaped weight for the strain and heating weight sets last year's winner Highborn a stiff test, and Westbridge Lad, a close third than and now 3th better, will be better for his run here on Tuesday. Selection: DELTA SOLEIL

A 45 EATON HANDICAP (CLASS D) £10,000 added 1m 4f 66yds

*
1 22-120 SLP NG (85) (D) (RP) (Nigs) Shields) K Burle 4 10 D
2 00-004 EAGLE CHAYON CLOS (D) (Clinton W Lans Jm) B Hanbury 4 9 12W Ryth
3 2140-3 TESSAIGE (15) (0) Bibbs Pannershiel M Carractio 5 9 11 L Charlott
4 -22516 RASAYEL (USA) (P) (CD) (SF) (Perfors Hadage Ltd) P D Berts 7 9 11
5. CACCIO: AT LIBERTY (10) (D. 69F) (Bruss Asams) R Hannon 5.9.10
6 21132 P.B.I. THROTTLE (172) (D) (Penesis, Ledy Nelson of Stafford) M Tompions 4 9 8 T Quies
7 141546 DANCING CRYALLER (5) (The Tings R's) R Hallinshead 4 9 8 1 Debtor
8 22:003 ALBERTARAM (LIB) (À M A-Micero) G Leves 5 9 3
9 211221 RMFRLES ROOSTER (30) (D) (Mark A Leathern) A Newcombe 5 9 3
10 2505-0 DARA (15) (0) (1 B Hollder) J Berbel 4 8 13
11. 212142 GALAPRIO (22) (D) (Negli Descripti Gay Kelleway 4 & 13
12 20105 SUPER FIGH (12) (C Hammond) P Howing 5 8 6 Figure 12
13 140-12 THE BUTTERWICK KID (9) (D) (Robert Chambers) R Fatney 4 8 4
- 13 deciated -

- 23 DOSANGE -SETTING: 3-1 Raffles Rooster, 7-2 Galagino, 6-1 The Butiservick Fat, 9-1 Duncing Cavolier, 12-1 Atmatriarum, Engle Caryon, Fat Huestia, Rasyon, 14-1 At (Berty, Sip ing Tessajon, 20-1 Dura, 25-1 Super Right 1998: Orinoco River 3 8 3 D Homson 9-1 (P Chapple-Hyern) drawn (4) 10 ran

1998: Ornoro River 3 8 3 D Hauson 9-1 (P Chapple-Hyern) drawn (44 10 ran FORM GUIDE RAFFLES ROOSTER looks the proverous handkap anip after winning with so much in hand from Sedburgh on the ell-weather at Woherhampton four veeks ago. That win proved how unjudy he was against Sedburgh at Southwell and he can now prove the same point with Gallepino, who got first run on him at Doncester but with Raffles Rooster now 900 better off for the length beating, Galapino must soil be in with a good chance if handling the ground because his lettest effort was a fine second to Angus-G at Newmarks. The Buttanvick Kild goes well for his apprentice and he stays. He has gone well in the ground in the pest and only the repowerstad Sea Freedom halted his follow up bid at Notingham last week.

Selection: RAFFLES ROOSTER

COSMIC CASE (5) | Golde 8 0 BETTING: 7-4 Ketteryer's Pot, 9-4 See Mark, 5-1 Sb; Clerks, 13-2 Femolys: RETING! 13-8 Mamme's Boy, 5-2 Sharp Cracket, 7-2 Vice Presidential, 8-1 Jacobs, 10-1 Flying High, 16-1 Cosmic Case SOUTHWELL 2.20 Shaded 2.50 Naivasha 3.20 Blue Kite 3.50 Lady Sheriff 4.25 Bold Aristocrat 4.55

GOING: Sandard.

STALLS: No - outside; remainder - maide.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Middle to high best for 6f to 7f.

Phoresand surface; left-hand sharp, oval course.

Course s 5m W of Newark. Rolleston Junction adjoins course.

ADMISSION: Club 512: Tattersalls 56 (54 for OAP members of course's Diamond Club - 52,50 to join; accompanied under-16s free). CAR PARE: Proc.

BLINEERED FIRST TIME: Owdy (2,50).

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATE: Desert Invader (4,25) was at Wolverhammen on Thursday. ron at Welverhampion on Thursday, LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Bock From The Sun (3.20) & Codford Jewel (4.25) have been sent 188 miles by W G M Turner from 2.20 MAGNOLIA HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300 added 3YO 1m 4f 403- WESLEY'S LAD (185) I Novice 9 7 12:1621 AS-IS (24) (D) M Johnston 9 7 ______ J Wester 9 5:00-3 BOMBE WILE (33) 8 Pailing 9 5 _____ T Speaks 2 4-1541 BROCTURE LINE (33) (C) MS M Reselby 9 2 ___ A Cultina 10 Connection 10

– 16 dec Minimum weight: Tat 10th. This handsop weight: Sam Peab Tat 7th, Kickon-

Station September 20.

BETTING: 4-1 As-is, 9-2 Brockene Line, 6-1 Philosophic, 8-1 Woodbard Nyroph, 12-1 Wesley's Lad, Solar Daen, Sem Peeb, 14-1 others

2.50 CAMELLIA CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 3YO 1m 663-26 ITALIAN SYMPHONY (42) (SEF) M Johnson 9 3.1 We 60 Purple Maze (12) J Arburg 9 3.....

- 14 declared BETTING: 7-2 Italian Symphony, 9-2 Peolog, 7-4 Mainache, 8-1 Grate Times,
Ondy, 10-1 Distinctive Drezes, 12-1 My Betsy, Median Lacy, 20 others

3.20 TULIP MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 270 5f RUSSIAN ROMED (7) B McMahon 8 8. ANGRY ALBERT C Smith 8 7..... ...A Clark 7 TH (13) J : O'Neil 8 7 ______ J Wesser 10 (7) N Littroden 8 6 ______ T G Nelangilla 2 THANKS KEITH (129))) BLUE KITE (7) N LICENCE CLASS RIVER P Some 85...A College 22

ROYAL DREAM J Beny 8 2 P Feesty IS 5
ROBERT'S DAUGHTER J Balding 8 1 N Curriate 1.
3 ROCK FROM THE SIM (24) W G M Turner 8 1 T 5 prote 11
6 FRUNDIN (25) May Wilen (Not) 7 13 N Hendon 6
PICCOLO CICTIVO) H Wilson 7 12 N Angelin Hardiny (7) 9
-12 declared -

3.50 FREESIA FILLIES HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 5f 000-00 AL REET (9) S Bowing 6 9 11 _____F Boyle (7) 13 040-02 LADY SHERIFF (7) (0) M W Essieby 6 9 9. A Parién (5) 12 B -02300 NAPIER STAR (26) (0) (b) Ns N Macadey 4 9 7. S Webster 10 V

Minimum weight: 7st 1.0th. True handliby weight: Fancy Clancy 7st 9th, Pos-live Result 7st 4th, Neferth St 4th. BETTIME: 11-4 Lady Streettl, 5-1 Russ in The Family, 13-2 Napler Star, 7-1 Alacetm, 8-1 Delnoh, 10-1 Malor Ready, Patingon, 14-1 others

4.25 BEGONIA SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £3,000 added 67 023050 SIR DISNER (17) (C) (D) J L Hams 9 9 10 Deen Noticeon 2 1 0 CADEORO JEWEL (27) W G M Turner 4 9 5 _____ T Sprake 1 00-523 HAMMAN'S USHER (26) (C) (D) (EP) C Musey 5 9 5 - 14 doctored -BETTIME: 3-1 Desert invader, 5-1 Files Ledger, 7-1 Hannelys Union, Chilleng, 3-1 Morling, Advance Repro, 12-1 Bold Aristocrat, 14-1 others

4.55 PETUNIA HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 7!

00-1 WATER CARDEN (31) (CD) G Wage 3 9 3 16 160405 DOWN THE YARD (#50) (C) M Chapman 4 7 10 — 10 consents — Minimum weight: 7st 10th. Thue hencicop weight: Down The Yard 7st 7th. BETTENS: 9-2 Water Carden, 7-1 Taichid, Johnsto The Joker, 10-1 Sea Spouse, Dennalls, Shorthine, 14-1 Laigh Crother, Square Dowl, Swan &-

- 247 A 300A

and JEWEL. The latter is given preference because her fifth at Newmarket was in a good quality event. 2.40: MUSALSAL finished with a flourish over 1m at Doncaster and a good victory over this 1m If at the Derby. Teofilio has talent but

CHESTER 240 Musakai 3.10 Salmon Ladder

GOING: Soft. STALLS: Im II - stands side; re DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low humi

DEAM ADVANTANCE: LOW numbers over.

■ Left-hand, bgfut, circular course. Not satisfake for long-striding horses.

■ Course is near centre of city on A548. Chester General station 1 m. ADMISSION: County Enclosure sold out; Tautersalis 512. Dee Stand 54; Course 52. CAR PARK: 52. U Brictoure sold on; Taitersuls 51:7 Dec Stand 54; Course 52. CAR PARK; 52:

LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: M Stoute — 16 winners from 68 runners gives a success ratio of 23.6% and a profit to a 51 level stake of 5.2.21. J Berry — 15 winners, 108 runners, 13.9%, -5.26.25; R Hammon — 13 winners, 15 runners, 20.9%, -5.5.5; A Baffey — 11 winners, 136 runners, 8.6%, -5.77.62.

LEADING JOCERYS: Put Eddery — 16 winners, 72 rides, 22.2%, -57.51; W R Swinbarn — 13 winners, 48 rides, 27.1%, +511.79; R Darley — 13 winners, 65 rides, 20%, +513.17; L Dettort — 13 winners, 72 rides, 18.1%, -511.18.

HINNERERD FIRST TIME: None.

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Barnum Sands (2.40) has been sent 215 miles by J Dunlop from Arandel, West Sussex.

2.10 EBF SEFTON MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £10,000 C4
2YO filles 5f Penalty Value £6,970

L Destrumence Av. 16: Antomer's Choice 2 8 11 K Denley 5-2 (J Berryl drawn (3) 7 Fan-

2996: Antorier's Choice 2 8 11 K Darley 5-2 U Berryl drain (3) 7 ran FORTM SULDE.

The ground has trigritemed away all bar six of the original 16 entries, but the race is still picky enough with two newcomers who look capable of showing up well. This floure has Dowlously been on Jack Berry's mind concerning ANTONIA'S DOUBLE after last year's win Dy the half-sister Antonia's Choice, who also had pravious experience. Beaten at Newcaste and Thirsk, her early pace will be suited to the track and she's taken to overcome the outside draw. Richard Hannon's purenties inventably come on a lot for a run so Jewel must have a chance after her store-starting fish to Pacifica at Newmarker. Her returnes Deadly Dudley and Miss Nosey Parker were both winners in the mud so Jewel should cope well enough with the conditions. Michael Bell and Gay Kelleway supply the newcomers and both Sky Red and Be My Wilsh have something to recommend them. Be My Wilsh is from a sprinting mare and related to winning handcappers. Also, her size Be My Chief went through his juvenille career unbesten for Herry Ceci. Michael Bell had a newcomer winner in Hoh Chi Min on Monday and she was entired for this race. The stable relies on Sky Red, en early foal related to a decent winning French juvenile and sure to cope with the ground beling a daughter of Night Shift. There was stable confidence in Bodfarledistinction at Thirst where she finished fourth to Pennilass. She wasn't far behind Antonia's Double and her staying-on performance suggests she will go well nodey on the slower surface. Demolition loo, claimer ridden on Wolverhampton's sand when fourth to One Singer, would seem outclassed here.

2.40 184TH YEAR OF THE DEE STAKES (Listed) (CLASS A) £35,000 3YO 1m 2f 75yds Penelty Value £24,790

3.10 ORMONDE STAKES (GROUP 3) (CLASS A) £45,000 1m 5f 89yds Penalty Value £29,520

FORM GLIDE

ROYAL COURT is the fancy on his reappearance. Unraced as a juvenile, he is the type to improve further after just four attempts last term, the defeats contain on fast ground in the improve further after just four attempts last term, the defeats contain on fast ground in the improve further after just four attempts last term, the defeats contain on fast ground in the subsequent St. Lagier winner Shartou on good ground at Haydock and he'll take the best-subsequent St. Lagier winner Shartou on good ground at Haydock and he'll take the best-subsequent St. Lagier winner Shartou on good ground at Haydock and he'll take the best-subsequent St. Lagier winner Affabt saw States form points to Els-Antstokratik, whose healt-length second to Winterest Affabt saw States form points to Els-Antstokratik winner and course makes it a totally different race, Salmon weights are the same, but the ground and course makes it a totally different race, Salmon leader has winning from in the must. Election Day was a strong-funshing septond in Salmon Ladder has winning from in the must. Election Day was a strong-funshing septond in Salmon Ladder has winning from in the must. Election Day was a strong-funshing septond in Salmon Ladder has winning from in the must. Election Day was a strong-funshing septond in a visit of a character who was stred in a visit of a character who was stred in a visit of a character who was tried in a visit of Andre Fabre. Swein's half-prother was found out in Group Two races after the Describe.

Recalling the pressure Ferguson was under, the probability is that a 1-0 victory at Forest in the third round of the FA Cup saved him "Now, of course, everyone viously the championship after al-

A recently published book brings in another recent publication, Unithypotheses to bear on history. ed We Stood by a 26-year-old edu-what if this country had not declared war (a majority in the cab- apparently gave up a teaching inet were opposed) on Germany in 1914. What if we had lost the Battle of Britain 27 years later? In a rather less serious conjectural vein, where would Manchester United be now if they had acted

on a campaign launched against Alex Ferguson in 1990 by disaffeeted supporters?
Events make it easy for many among the Old Trafford faithful to forcet that they once wanted rid of the man who is now established beyond all reasonable doubt as one of the great football managers.

Confirmation of this, by which I mean the disaffection that grew

cated type, Richard Kurt, who career to concentrate on facetious appraisal of Manchester United's

An elongated fanzine that too eagerly embraces the genre's dodgy enthusiasm for urban xenophobia, Kurt's book carries the following reaction to Ferguson's most difficult season at Old Trafford:

"Winter approached, the nights grew darker; United got worse and the knives were getting sharpened. Of course, there were still odd moments of iridescence when some of the team's donkeys managed a good game and the team showed their potential... these up around Ferguson, is contained were not common sights at the

time. But what we were getting used to was watching United slip slowly down the toilet as the New Year hove into view. Possibly the worst was the game against Spurs at home; humiliated three-nil, we eered them off the pitch and vented our rage at the manager and chairman.

As those awful football phonein programmes have proved, you would not hang a dog on the word of a supporter but, to be fair. where was the cunning and wisdom that Ferguson brought to bear at Aberdeen when breaking the Celtic-Rangers duopoly in Scottish football?

Kurt continues: "The Fergie Out campaign had begun in earnest, seemingly started by a bloke in J-Stand who just couldn't



take anymore and rapidly taken up by K-Stand and the rest; banners began to appear and 'Fergie Out' hit the top of the terrace hit parade... we might as well admit it -most of us wanted Alex out.

If the rest of the stadium needed further convincing, December

did the job. Not a win in seven games; we failed to heat any of the four London sides we faced in consecutive games: Fergie dropped [Mark] Hughes for the Palace game and we lost it... that match seemed to symbolise the malaise we were in. Mystifying selection by a manager who had bought a load of expensive parts for a machine that he did not know how to assemble."

Looking back now, recalling the ressure Ferguson was under - one respected critic referred to his appointment as an unmitigated disaster - the probability is that a 1-0 victory at Nottingham Forest in the third round of the FA Cup saved him. "The sense of the time was that a knock-out by Forest would release the Edwards butcher's chopper." Kurt adds.

possibility, that the Cup run didn't save Fergie's career and that the board would have stood by him throughout. Pardon us for not swallowing that one whole."

Even when Manchester United defeated Crystal Palace in a replay of the FA Cup final, doubts about Ferguson still lingered. In common with all who had succeeded Matt Busby his task was not merely to produce a consistently successful team but maintain the sense of style for which the club was internationally famous.

Ferguson still had to run for day-light. Winning the European Cup-Winners' Cup in 1991 gave him room for manoeuvre but a great deal more was expected, most ob-

claims that there was never such a most 25 years. Then came the disappointment of finishing second to

Leeds United in 1992. Events since then have been timony to Ferguson's percepti and perseverance. Four out of five championships since the Premiership's inception, two more FA Cup, victories, the Donble twice.

Towards the turn of the year I put it forward that the signings Ferguson made last summer suggested more Scottish thrift than shrewdness. He took me to task over this pointing out that he had tried to sign Alan Shearer. So what if the New castle and England forward had chosen Old Trafford over St James Park? Would Ferguson now be reaching out for the one great prize that still eludes bim?

Henman making the right noises

Tim Henman is confident that Matt Tench on the his elbow is not about to supplant Cherie Blair's legs as a

focus for national concern. Britain's leading tennis player, whose spectacular start to the vear prompted rash talk of a home win at Wimbledon, has been missing from the tour for nearly two months now, forced to the sidelines by an injury that has halted his rapid ascent of the world rankings.

However an operation to remove loose pieces of bone from Henman's right elbow six weeks ago appears to have been completely successful, and the 22year-old said yesterday that he was relishing a return to tournament play next week in the Italian Open. "It's been very good," Henman said. "I've been playing for just over two weeks and now it's 100 per cent. I started off slowly, and was playing probably a little bit cautiously. But once you break down those psychological barriers it's been 100 per cent full out. For the first 10 days I didn't really do anything. Then I had an opportunity to put in a lot of time in the gym."

Henman suspected that the concentration on strength work had resulted in him putting on a few pounds, though he continues to have about as much surplus fat as Kate Moss.

Henman's rehabilitation has

challenge of clay for a rehabilitated British tennis No 1

ham of the Lawn Tennis Association and has included special exercises for his right arm with which he intends to persevere. "It's a fairly important part of my anatomy," said the man who recently became a millionaire.

The Italian Open is on clay, a surface with which Henman is relatively unfamiliar. He missed that part of the season with a virus last year, and in 1995 was concentrating on improving on hard courts. A natural serve and volleyer, the slowest surface would appear not to suit him. but Henman remained upbeat.

"I really enjoy it. There is definitely an art to constructing rallies and taking opportunities to be aggressive. That is a definite game plan for me. I don't want to be staying at the back for 50, 60 shots. I'm going to have to be the one going forward and taking risks.

Might he not become frustrated? "It's a challenge. It's frustrating when you hit good shots and they keep coming back, but that's something you have to learn to deal with, to be patient."

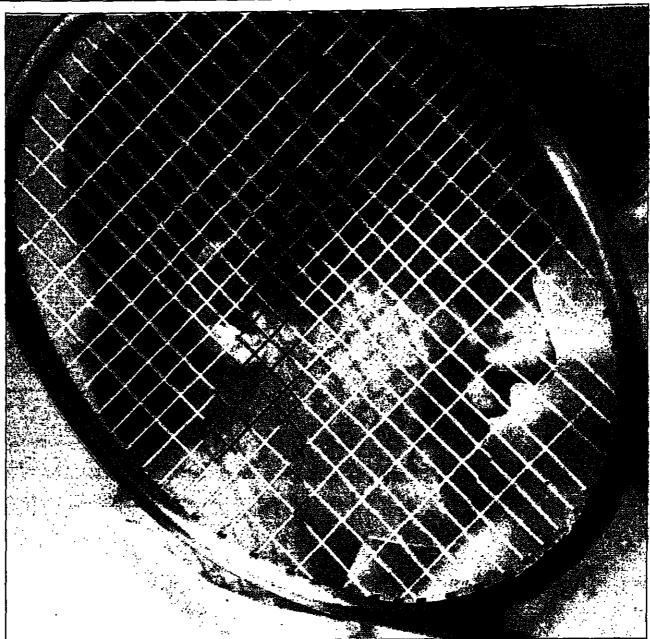
All the same, Henman's coach,

aggerated expectations next week, despite the fact that his man will be seeded. "I'll tell you, a lot of players, who aren't seeded, will be wanting to draw Tim Hen-man," Felgate said. "He hopes to prove them wrong, but they'll be thinking, 'He hasn't played on the clay, he's been out injured, clay's not his best surface. If I'm going to knock off a seed why don't I start with that one?"

The pair were gathered at Queen's Club in west London as the LTA, with a Peter Mandelson-like flair for publicity, marked the start of the British tennis season. Most of us were unaware that there was such a thing, but John Crowther, the LTA's chief executive, catching the mood of the times, said this was the dawn of a new era in British tennis. (He even pointed out that Tony Blair was a recreational player.)

Greg Rusedski was also there, and he and Henman coached dozens of youngsters as the LTA also launched their Junior Aces initiative to encourage those between five and 12 to take up the game.

Rusedski's year has almost mirrored Henman's: an encouraging start followed by a nagging injury, in his case to his wrist. He, too, is practising hard now and, though by his own estimate only 95 per cent ready.



Two horses power

Law's campaign

Eguestrianism

Leslie Law and New Flavour,

whose joint owners include Se-

bastian Coe, are ready for their

second run in the Mitsubishi

Motors Badminton Three-Day

Event, which begins today in

Last year the partnership fin-

ished fourth and best of the

British. Selected for the Olympic

Games, Law had to withdraw at

the 11th hour because the horse

New Flavour, Law's second

GENEVIEVE MURPHY

Gloucestershire.

had bruised a foot.

James' joy for Welsh

Cricket round-up ADAM SZRETER

Steve James made an unbeaten 101 at Headingley yesterday as Glamorgan's bright start to the season continued at Yorkshire's expense.

James put on 86 with Hugh

gaining his England place took another knock when he was dismissed for nine against Leices-

Gloucestershire at Bristol against Hampshire, for whom Robin Smith made 52 out of 221 for 6.

Britannic Assurance

Derbyshire v Surrey

Nottinghamshire won toss

"P Johnson b Walker C M Tolley c Speight b Welker IN M Noon low b Brown K P Evans c Killeen b Walker R T Betes low b Walker

A N Bowen low b Brown

P J Franks not out Extres (1013 w6 nb4) ..

County Championship

DERBY: No play (rain). Today: 11.0.

Durham v Nottinghamshire

Bowling: Brown 19-5-61-2; Killeen 6-3-8-0;

AA

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Curran shines through gloom

HENRY BLOFELD

reports from Northampton Northamptonshire 126-4 v Somerset

again after lunch, a mixture of

dashed all hopes.

sorbing. After winning the toss. Northamptonshire lost both openers to Kevin Shine whose opening spell contained a bit of In his second over, Love drove everything. Mal Loye set off by pulling him for four, but in his second over Richard Montgomerie played back with his back away from his body and

was caught at second slip. In Shine's fifth over, Rob Bailey tried to run him down to third man off the back foot and was caught behind. This brought in Curran who hooked his first ball to square leg for four and had taken his score to 12 by the end of the over. He threw his bat at anything at all loose. A slashing drive over cover off Shine was followed by a leg glance and a lofted off-drive against Graham Rose and a square cut and a thick edge produced fours in

Rose's next over. Andy Caddick, who had

his first spell without any luck, now came on the Pavilion End. and was caught, chest high, at first slip. This did not deter Curran who distributed his favours equally between Caddick. Rose and then Mushtaq Ahmed and at lunch had scored 65 in 80 balls with 10 hoisterous fours.

■ Warwickshire are confident that their captain. Tim Munton. will be playing again in July af-ter a successful back operation. Munton, who underwent surgery on Tuesday night to remove particles from a worn disc, could be howling again within two months. The latest injury is in the area where the former England seamer had prolapsed disc surgery two years ago. Munton has not played in a competitive match in his first season as suc-

mount, will perform the dressage tomorrow afternoon. He has a wonderful temperament and is unlikely to worry about cessor to Dermot Reeve. the electric atmosphere whereas Capitano, with whom Law will be first into the dressage arena 7-179 8-268 9-285. this morning, can spoil all the good work he has done at home Did not bat: E How.

by becoming overwrought. Only one other - the British Olympic rider Ian Stark - will be allowed to ride two horses. He will be last of the 80 to go on his Olympic mount, Stanwick Ghost, and second to start this morning, with the New

Zealand-bred Arakai, who is by Ring the Bell, also the sire of this year's Grand National winner, Lord Gyllene.

Karen Dixon had intended to ride two horses until her 17vear-old warrior. Get Smart, was withdrawn yesterday. She now relies solely on her 1996 Olympic partner, Too Smart.

Mary King and Star Appeal. the winners at Burghley last year, will be well fancied to gain the first British victory since Ginny Leng (now Eliott) won

However, the overseas riders, especially the New Zealanders. will again be formidable. Blyth Tait, the Olympic

champion, looks particularly threatening, with the reliable and consistent Chesterfield, the first horse to tackle the Olympic team course last year - when he made it look so easy.

Other strong contenders include three more Kiwis - the world champion, Vaughn Jefferis, Mark Todd and Andrew Nicholson - plus Bruce David-son from the United States and Lucy Thompson, the European champion who rides

Mulholland pays for the failure of Paris

Rugby League

DAVE HADFIELD

Paris St-Germain have sacked their coach, Peter Mulholland, after only one Super League win so far this season. Mulholland, the Australian who was brought in to revitalise the Paris side, has been told by the Rugby League's chief executive and Paris board member, Maurice Lindsay, that he is no longer wanted.

"I'm very disappointed," Mul-holland said. "I don't know what I'm going to do now, but, if I'm going to be sacked, this is a great place to be sacked," he said.

WARWICKSHIRE: "N V Kright, W G Khan, D I, Hemp, D P Oster, M J Powell, D R Brown, G Welch, † T Frost, N M K Smith, A P Giles, M D Edmond. Two other coaches who have recently lost their jobs - John Monie at Auckland and Andy Goodway at Oldham - have

been mentioned as possible successors. In the short term. the club captain, David O'Don-nell, will take charge of training and will select the side to

play Castleford on Sunday. Half the 12 Super League coaches have now been replaced, within three months of the start of the season. The former Wigan and

Great Britain player, Phil Clarke - back in England for tests on the neck injury that ended his playing career with Sydney City Roosters last year - has denied trying to oust Wigan's chairman, Jack Robinson. "But if there was a changing of the guard and there was any way I could help Wigan, then I would feel honoured to

do so," he said.

Scot aims for cold comfort

in Thame

ANDY FARRELL

News that snow has been the sweeping the country is no surprise to those with access to the "" European Tour schedule. The Tour reaches these shores for the first time today, which has had players reaching for the thermal underwear and woolly hats that were packed neatly away after the Dunhill Cup at St Andrews.

The Benson and Hedges International, in its 27th year, is the longest running sponsored event on the tour, although the new Government may have 'something to say about tohac-"co sponsorship, and used to be " held in the summer at Fulford. 1. Then it moved to St Mellion in " May and its switch last year to

The Oxfordshire did nothing to raise the temperature.

Winds of Siberian origins roared through Thame, and what they lacked in bitterness on the final day was made up in pure velocity. Colin Montry he was still wearing his spikes as he dodged the speed cameras on the M40, shot 84, Ian Woos nam 82, Nick Faldo 80 and 11 Bernhard Langer a 79. All but ".... Faldo returned to the scene of Stephen Ames's victory and got hailed on during the pro-am for their trouble.

Montgomerie, whose US Masters campaign dissolved with closing rounds of 74 and 81. is intent on gaining his first win 🗥 of the year in the next Tour ? weeks before heading back to the States for the US Open. 4-4-

"I didn't dwell on the Masters," he said. "There is nothing wrong with my golf. You have bad days, just as I did here last year. There's a few that have got away. I won't be happy if Idon't win in the next four ".... weeks."

Despite reports to the con-??*? trary, Europe's No 1 will not expand his American schedule next year. "I feel comfortable! "" with the position I hold here," here Montgomerie said. "If you are ?"" No 1 in one country, it is some times difficult to go somewhere ... else. Winning here is slightly easier than in the States easier than in the States."

If proof were needed Scot's record is 12 wins at home and none in America. But he has brought home the US Tour's work ethic of practising chipping and putting.
"We are better ball-strikers,"

but where they outscore us is in the ability to get up and go from anywhere. It is more of an ef-1.... fort here in the cold than in Florida with the sun on your back," he added.

Like Langer, who won for the first time on the Tour with his long putter in Italy at the week end, Spain's Seve Ballesteros arrived buoyed by having finally completed a 72-hole tourns ment and was contemplating what golf can do about Tiger Woods Woods.

"I would not change the courses, I'd change the ball; ""
Ballesteros said. "I'd make fi "" bigger. It would not go so far '.' and it would be easier for themto find it in the rough." Then the smiled, shrugged and addedcases "And for me, too."

> TODAY'S NUMBER

The amount in Australian dollars [£1.2bn] that the or ganisers of the Sydney 2000 Olympics say the Gemes will cost, according to the revised budget yesterday. A profit of Auss. 42:7m [£26.2m] predicted

Morris (55) and 127 with Adrian Dale (36no) as Glamorgan reached 213 for 1 at the close. Graeme Hick's hopes of re-

tershire at New Road. Worcestershire finished on 199 for 6. David Lawrence was back in the wickets after his five-year layoff with a broken knee. He took 1 for 70 from 15 overs for

best figures by a Durham bowler on home soil when he took 7 for 56 against Nottinghamshire at Hartlepool. The visitors were all out for 170 and Durham were 115 for 3. For Nottinghamshire Chris Tolley made a 59-ball half-century. At Northampton only 32

overs were possible, the hosts reaching 126 for 4 against Somerset with Kevin Curran unbeaten on 65. And there was no play at all at Derby where Surrey are the visitors.

Nick Knight played his first game since breaking a finger in against Oxford University, who Parks. Another Warwickshire

New Zealand, captaining Warwickshire for the first time were dismissed for 129 at The hatsman, Cambridge University captain Anurag Singh, made 134 against Essex at Fenner's.

DURHAM - First Immings
J.J. B. Levis, flow b. Bowen
P.D. Collingwood b. Franks
J.E. Morris c. Robinson b. Tolkey
N.J. Speak not out
D.C. Boon not out
Extras (106 w.4 nb5)
Total (for 3, 4.1 overs)
Fall: 1.18.2-66.3-70.

To bet: †M P Speight, M J Foster, J Boiling N Killeen, S J E Brown, A Walker.

Rowling foo date): System 13-3-29-0; Franks 8-1-26-1; Bowen 12-4-30-1; Toley 8-2-24-1. Umpires: R Julian and J F Steele.

BRISTOL Hampshire (1nt) have scored 221 for 6 in their first havings v Gloucestershire (2). Today: 11.0.

Fall: 1-41 2-63 3-64 4-147 5-169 6-195.

To bat: A D Mascarenhas, C A Connor, S J

Johnston (Constitution of the Constitution of

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: A J Wright, N J Tran-or, R J Cuntiffe, M A Lynch, "M W Alleyne, S Young, R C Russell, T H C Hancock, M C J Bell, D V Lawrence, A M Smith.

LORD'S: Middlesex (3pts) have scored 387 for 5 in their first innings v Sussex (2). To-day: 11.0.

expines: G I Burgess and R A White,

Falk 1-24 2-53 3-96 4-185 5-321.

Middlesex v Sussex

(2). Today: 11.U.
Hampshire won toos
HAMPSHIRE – First landings
M.t. Hayden lov b Smith
J.S. Langer c Hampsch b Lawrence
"J.P. Stephenson c Russell b Smith

*J P Stephenson & russes v o. R A Smith few b Young M Keech c Russell b Hancock .

The seasons were in conflict at the County Ground. In the morning, for 22 overs, Kevin Curran produced an array of strokes which would have done justice to a midsummer's day. Before a start could be made

snow, sleet and hail had covered the ground with a white blanket with a temperature to match. Another storm followed although the covers came off in the hope of some cricket after tea. By then the blackest clouds of the day were building up in

To bat: J P Hewitz, R L Johnson, A R C Fras-er, P C R Tufnell. Bowling (to deta): Jarks 26-4-81-1; Drakes 6-1-21-0; Robinson 21-5-50-1; Newell 9-2-35-1; Wran 17-1-71-1; Greenfield 1-0-15-0; Athey 6-0-17-0; Perce 7-0-22-0; Rao 5-1-14-1.

SUSSEC: M T E Peirce, K Greenfield, N R Tay-lor, C W J Athey, K Namel, R K Rao, "†P Moores, V C Drakes, P W Jarvis, M A Robin-son, A A Khan.

Umpires: V A Holder and J H Pampshire.

NORTHAMPTON: Northermtenshire (Opts) have scored 126 for 4 in their first lumings v Somerset (1), Today: 11.0.

Northernporehire won toes
NORTHAMPTONSHERE - First Innings
R Morragnere c Trescrible b Shine
M B Loye c Bowler b Caddick
R J Basey c Turner b Shine
K M Curran not out

To bet: J N Snape, †D Ripley, J P Taylor, \$ A J Boswell, Mohammad Aksam.

Bowling (to date): Caddick 13-3-43-2; Stree 7-2-29-2; Rose 8-3-29-0; Mushtaq Ahmed 4-1-21-0.

SOMERSET: M. N. Latimet, M. Burns, "P. D. Bonter, M. E. Trescothick, P. C. L. Holloway, 1R. J. Turner, G.D. Roae, J. I.D. Neir, Musikaq Ahmed, A.R. Caddick, K. J. Shine.

Worcester v Leicestershire

Umpires: Y E Jesty and B J Meyer,

Workstershire won toss
Workstershire won toss
WORKCESTERSHIRE- First Immings
I S Curns tow b Multrs
W P C Weston c Millins b Mulisily
G A Huck Bor b Millins

Spiring c Maddy b Johnson . M Moody c Nixon b Johnson Solanki c Brimson b Mullally

laynes not out

Total (for 6, 71 overs)

tS J Rimodes not out

A L Penberthy b Caddick

Northants y Somerset

the south-west and they soon The play we had was ab-CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Bowling (to data): Milns 18-6-52-2; Mul-lally 19-2-60-2; Brimson 3-4-20-0; Johnson 13-3-31-2: Wells 6-3-10-0; Dakin 6-1-8-0; Maddy 1-0-5-0.

LEICESTERSHIRG: D. L. Maddy, I. J. Sutciffe, G.I. Macmillan, *V. J. Wells, A. Habib, N.C. John-son, †P. A. Noon, D. J. Milles. J. M. Dekin, A. D. Multally, M. T. Brunson. Umpires: J W Holder and K E Palmer. Yorkshire v Glamorgan HEADRIGLEY: Giamorgan (1pt) have soon 213 for 1 in their first linnings v Yorkshi (0). Today: 11.0.

A Dalle not out. tres (64 fb7 w2 rb8)

Fair: 1-85.
To bat: "M P Meynard, P A Cottey, G P Batcher, †A D Shaw, R D 5 Croft, Weigar Younis, S L Watden, S D Thomas.
Sowing: Gough 10-5-25-0; Silverwood 13-3-44-1; Hemition 13-2-49-0; White 9-0-34-0; Stemp 15-2-35-0; Yaughan 4-2-6-0; McGazin 2-0-9-0.

YORASSHERE: M P Veughan, A McGreth, *D Byes, D S Lehmann, B Parker, C White, †R / Blakey, D Gough, G M Hamilton, C E W Sil-verwood, R D Stemp. nd, R D Stemp. set B Leadbeater and D R Shepherd. Other first-class matches

Cambridge Univ v Essex

FENNER'S: Essex, with all their first-wickets standing, trail Cambridge Uni by 263 runs. Today: 11.30, RCESTER: Worcestershire (Opts) have red 199 for 6 in their first kurings v estershire (2), Today: 11.0. Cambridge University won toss CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY - Pirst Int ET Smith b Law Q Hughes c Hibbert b Such A Singh to Wilson W.J. House o Hibbert to Law DR H Churton how b Law .. P S Jones c Peters b Grayson J W Freeth not out Fall: 1-4 2-22 3-36 4-60 5-109 6-131. To hat: P J Newport, A Shenyar, R J ChapBowling: Law 19-1-93-5; Andrew 17-2-76son 4.3-0-36-1. ESSEX – First Innings P J Prichard not out

D D J Robinson not out Extras (lb1 w2)... Total (for 0, 5 overs). To bet: D R Law, S D Peters, A J E Hibbert, A P Grayson, 1B J Hyern, D G Wison, G R Nap-er, S J W Andrew, P M Such. Bowling (to date): P.S. Jones 3-0-13-0; How

Oxford Univ v Warwickshire THE PARKS: Oxford University were dis ed for 129 in their first kinlings v Wa shire. Today: 11.30. Oxford University won toss

R D Hudson b Welch . C G R Lightfoot b Welch ... B W Byrne Ibw b Brown J A G Fulton st Frost b Gles PG Morgan How b Brown ... ta P Sonti liber & Edmond ... LG Buchanan c Frost b Edmond C M Battartee c Brown b Welch ≈ (b6 lb5 w6 nb6) ...

Fall: 1-5 2-19 3-22 4-51 5-61 6-62 7-66 8-70 9-92 Bowling: Welch 10.3-0-39-4; Brown 8-4-9-2; Gles 21-8-44-2; Edmond 9-2-26-2; Khan 1-1-0-0.

Total (49.3 overs)

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Ravanelli ^a may make swift return

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RECYCLING

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Fabrizio Ravanelli may return to action this weekend to help Middlesbrough's fight for Premiership survival. The Italian was carried off on

a stretcher during his side's draw with Manchester United at Old Trafford on Monday and it was thought the injury was a torn hamstring which would have ruled him out for the rest of the season - including the FA Cup final against Chelsea. A hospital scan has revealed

the injury was not as serious as expected and Ravanelli, who has scored 31 goals so far this season, will miss the match at Blackburn tonight but could be back in action against Leeds at Elland Road on Sunday.

Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, said: "I am relieved a scan showed no tear. Ravanelli wrenched his back somehow and got spasms down his leg. He has a chance of playing in our final League game."
Tonight, the instinct for sur-

vival will take over from the hype surrounding the delayed visit to Ewood Park. Boro had three points deducted for failing to fulfil the fixture in December when they unilaterally called off the game at 24 hours' notice when the squad was hit by injuries, illness and suspension.

Now, in the final week of the season, the Teessiders find themselves on the brink of relegation, four points adrift of fourth-bottom Sunderland and needing to win at both Blackurn and Leeds to ensure Premiership safety.

Over the same period, Black-burn have climbed off the foot of the table under Tony Parkes, then caretaker manager, but de-

spile just seven defeats in 26 League matches since Ray Harford resigned. Rovers also need three points to make sure that they are not facing the drop themselves when they entertain

Leicester on Sunday.

"The game is too important for both clubs to let what happened last December affect their thinking," Robson said. "After the euphoria of our last two games. I have to make sure my players are up for this

game. They have to dig deep. Our point at Old Trafford, where the atmosphere was elec-tric, has put us within striking dis-tance of safety. Our destiny is in our own hands. If we win our last two games we are safe. I have felt all along nothing would be decided until the last day."

Parkes said: "There's no extra edge to the game over what happened a few months ago, Any edge that might be there will only be so because we both need some points, and it would be the same if we were playing anybody else. There's certainly no bad blood between us, but it's going to be a fearful battle just because of the circumstances."

Both teams have problems up front, with Chris Sutton and Per Pedersen both doubtful for Rovers with hamstring strains. That could mean Graham Fenton, who has yet to score a Premiership goal this season, could partner Kevin Gallacher.

Boro may be without Ravanelli, but Mikkel Beck makes a return after recovering from flu. They will also have Gary Walsh back in the squad following a cartilage operation, the former Manchester United goalkeeper being a welcome recruit with Ben Roberts battling an elbow problem and Mark Schwarzer out injured.



Colin McRae, in his Subaru Impreza, is cheered on to a dramatic victory during the final stage of the Tour of Corsica rally yesterday

Colin McRae yesterday took every conceivable risk to beat the Spaniard Carlos Sainz and win the Tour of Corsica rally. The 1995 world champion, who had started the final day in fourth position, 22 seconds behind the Spaniard's Ford Escort, set the best time in three of the last six timed stages for a bril-liant victory in his Subaru Im-

Before the final section, just over 34 kilometres from Stiliccione to Marati, in the moun-

tains south of Ajaccio, McRae was seven seconds behind Sainz in second place. His aggressive driving on wet asphalt gained 15 seconds on his rival in the final stretch alone.

"I would have preferred dry conditions because we didn't do much testing with the rain tyres but it was OK," McRae said. "l

didn't have much choice any-

Sainz had to settle for second overall, eight seconds behind, while Gilles Panizzi, of France, came third, a further 30 seconds back in his Peugeot 306. There was disappointment for Panizzi's team-mate François Delecour, retained second place in the

who shared the lead with Sainz wrong choice of tyres and clutch problems, Delecour lost ground

McRae, who had been looking for a win since taking the Safari Rally in Kenya in March, world championship but is now only two points behind the

a cow on Tuesday. McRae's victory made up

he was fighting for the lead drop to fourth place. This year's Tour of Corsica.

made tricky by occasional downpours, was marked by another fine performance from the lightweight, two-wheel drive Peugeots, which matched the massive four-wheel drive cars. Panizzi was in the lead after the first day on Monday and, on Tuesday, Delecour and Panizzi were joint first and third re-

Pearce set to resign

CATHERINE RILEY AND

Stuart Pearce is set to resign as manager of relegated Nottingham Forest today after just five over to Dave Bassett.

However, the indications are that Pearce will again focus to the referee Mike Riley at the purely on his playing career and give the task of trying to get For-est back into the Premiership to the experienced Bassett, who moved to the City Ground as general manager from Crystal

Palace.

Slaven Bilic will leave Upton

Fverton for Park to sign for Everton for £4.5m next week. West Ham's Croatian centre-back is due on Merseyside to finalise the move on Tuesday. Everton had tried to sign Bilic before the transfer deadline, but the defender chose to stay and help West Ham avoid relegation.

Paul Gascoigne has received a three-match suspension which will put him out of action for the first three domestic matches of next season after exceeding the

penalty points limit. Gascoigne's latest suspenRangers' 2-0 defeat by Motherwell at Ibrox on Monday, yet still managed to collect a caution for "adopting an aggressive approach" after being fouled...

er, is in trouble yet again with the Football Association. Only last week he was charged with misconduct for comments made end of the Gunners' 1-1 draw

incidents during the 1-1 draw at Coventry two days later. The FA have acted following complaints that the striker made derisive gestures to home fans after converting a first-half penalty. Wright is also accused of barging into a Coventry steward at

Joe Kinnear is resigned to los-

sion comes after he played just 45 minutes as a substitute in ship clubs.

McRae throws risk factor aside

way. My only option was to at-tack." overnight. Hampered by a wrong choice of tyres and clutch

to end up fourth, 55 seconds behind the leader.

leader, Tommi Makinen of Finland. Makinen, the world champions, withdrew from the rally when his Mitsubishi Lancer hit

for a frustrating run in last were joint month's Catalunya Rally, where spectively.

Mitchell keeps faith with Erskine as Sale prepare for big day

Rugby Union

CHRIS HEWETT

enham. He was prepared to the doubt as the Ulster man de-John Mitchell reinforced his layed an operation to straightreputation as an orthodox. noen his broken nose until after the big day, but John Fowler's flirnonsense New Zealand hard nut yesterday as he put his Sale tation with a faith healer soundside through its paces in advance ed too much like mumbo-jumbo of Saturday's Pilkington Cup fi- to the man from Waikato.

nal against Leicester at Twick- Mitchell did not even con- now hoping to overcome his se- ly devastating because it leaves 📕 The lock Martin Bayfield Fowler's new-found belief in the gentina later this month. miraculous; on Saturday, Erskine will again deputise in the side that drew a brutal league engine room alongside Dave match with the Tigers last week-Baldwin with Mitchell himself end is Neil Ashurst who plays at filling in for the injured Char- blind-side flanker. To lose both

sider the 11th hour claims of his rious knee ligament condition us at the very limit of our withdrew from the England tour give Dave Erskine the benefit of England A lock, despite in time for England's tour to Ar-

The only newcomer to the lie Vyvyan at No 8. Fowler is Fowler and Vyvyan is absolute-

strength in depth," Mitchell said. to Argentina yesterday with a re-"Having said that, Neil possessgame on the big occasion."

SALE (v. Lainester, Twichenbarn, Saturday): J. Mellinder (capt): D. Rees, J. Beended, A. Hadley, T. Berry, S. Marrito, D. Morrs, P. Wersternig, S. Darmord, A. Smith, D. Brissne, D. Boldwin, N. Ashusti, J. Michell, D. O'Gody, Replacementer: C. Yotes, J. O'Relly, M. Dreet, L. Heuston, S. Fietcher, A. Morret, C. Heuston, S. Fietcher, A. Morret.

currence of his groin injury. es the experience to deliver a big Next season's European Conference will rise from eight clubs to 32, with 16 from France, eight from England, four from Wales and one each from Ireland, Italy, Romania and Scotland

Pippen's three-pointer pips Hawks as Chicago continue their run

Basketball

Scottie Pippen scored 29 points, including a three-pointer that decided the match with 47 seconds left, to lift the defending NBA champions, the Chicago Bulls, to a 100-97 victory over the Atlanta Hawks in the opening encounter of the Eastern Conference semi-final series

on Tuesday.

The Bulls overcame a 14-

Dennis Rodman and a distinct lack of offensive threat from Michael Jordan in the final quarter to remain unbeaten in the play-offs.

Jordan scored 20 of his 34 points in the pivotal third quarter as the Bulls battled back from a 50-39 half-time deficit, but just one point in the fourth Rodman was ejected - for the

second time in four play-off games - with 5min 5sec7 left in the third quarter for slapping

Mutombo in the face.

third quarter we fought hard de-fensively and got ourselves back Fippen's threein the ball game and it was a dogfight from that point in," Jordan said. Mookie Blaylock had 31 points and 12 rebounds for the

Hawks, who were coming off a tough five-game series with the Detroit Pistons. But he committed two key turnovers and

last two minutes as Atlanta out of bounds wasn't a very "It just didn't seem like things failed to execute down the were going to go our way, but stretch, going scoreless for the

> Pippen's three-pointer, his sixth of the game, came after a back-court violation by Atlanta and broke a 97-97 tie. Chicago's Luc Longley missed two free throws with 33 seconds left, keeping the Hawks within one basket. But Blaylock stepped on the sideline as he received an inbounds pass for a costly

the Hawks centre Dikembe missed a three-pointer in the turnover. "The call on Mookie good one," complained the Hawks coach, Lenny Wilkens. He was clearly bumped by

> After Jordan, amazingly, missed a lay-up, the Hawks had one last chance with 3.4 seconds left, but Blaylock's threepoint attempt from the corner was long. Ron Harper scored 11 points and Jordan grabbed 11 rebounds for the Bulls. Steve Smith chipped in 19 points and

Tyrone Corbin added 14 for At-

A Jordan dunk gave Chicago its first lead at 69-67 with Imin 43sec left in the third quarter. Three more baskets by Jordan extended the lead to seven

the first round, host the second game tonight.

Hardy to defend **European crown**

Billy Hardy, quickly knocked out by Naseem Hamed on Saturday, must defend his European featherweight title against Medhi Labdouni, of France, the man he beat to win it, by early

August.
Herbie Hide will challenge for his former World Boxing Organisation heavyweight title he held for a year from March 1994 against America's Tony Tucker in Norwich on 28 June.

Joe Bugner, 47, will defend his Pan Asian Boxing Associa-tion title against the Fijian champion, Waiski Ligaloa, in Australia on 28 May.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football 7.30 unless stated

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP
Blacksoffs V Middlesbrough (7.45)
Maindlesby Utd v Newcastie (8.0)
Maindlesby Utd v Newcastie (8.0)
Dis LEAGUE Guardian Insurance Cup finalBoshajn Wood v Barrice Toen (et Victoria Road,
Daganjam)

Daganijemi.
NORTHI WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Divisions Solar Okt Boys v Vauchat Gild.
Whitsbort United Counties League Premier Distalon: Northempton Spencer v St Northempton Spencer v T. A.D.: Thatmesmoad v Greanisch Borough (7.45).
PONTRISE LEAGUE Steat Division: Notic County v Lécusite (7.0).

GUE KOKOCK-OUT CUP: Sheffleid

Speachway
PRESIDE REPORTE KNOCK-OUT
Resemble (7.45).

Other-spects
GOLF-Sesson and Hedges Internet
(The Olicotrine, There).

Equiestimanuses of

Ian Wright, the Arsenal strik-

with Blackburn on 19 April. Wright has now been cited for

the end of the match.

ing midfielder Oyvind Leon-hardsen. The Wimbledon manager, apparently certain to lose Vinnie Jones in the summer, has tried hard to persuade the Norwegian to stay with the Dons. "We've offered him the best

deal we could, but he's turned it down," Kinnear said of the £4.5m-rated man rumoured to have been targeted by Fiorentina as well as leading Premier-

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Kanses City-7 Boston 2; Cleveland 5 Texes 4; Baltimore 8 Ansheim 4; New York Yamises 7 Marriessas 2; Torch 10 2 Detruit 1 (10 familiag); Seedie 7 Chica-go Whate Sox 8; Osfdand 6 Melwapikes 5.

go vinte son c, census o numeros o numeros o NATIONAL. LEASUE: Catorado 12 New York Mets 11: Pittsburgh 4 Flonda C; Philadalphia 5 Houston 1; St Louis 4 Kiasinta 3; Calcago Cubs 2 San Diego 1; Montreal 10 San Francisco 3; Cincanati 3 Los Angeles 2 (11, in-

Basketball

point deficit, the ejection of SPORTING DIGEST

Marna; 8 E Leoni (ft) Akt; 9 M Milesi (ft) Bres-ctalst; 10 G ven Bondt (Bel) Visanderen 2002 el sone time. Overell standings: 1 W Peters Bel) Mape 17:54.55; 2 N Martian Bel) Mapel +4sec; 3 A Tchmil (Ukr) Lotto +6sec; 4 McDiven +10; 5 L Genny (Fr) Bigmit +12: 6 F Vandershroucke (Bel) Mapel +15; 7 Vasseur +16; 8 A Kasputs (Lim) Casine same time; 9 Virsipuu +18; 10 P Gaumont (Fr) Cofidie same time.

Football

Basketball
Less than one week after the end of the Budweiser League season, Leicestar Rider's have signed the 6ft 111n American James Hawilia for the new campaign beginning in September. Last season Hawilia played in China. Richmond Jaguars have teamed up with Ashley Levett, the Richmond righy dubowner, in a bid to become a leading force in the Budweiser League. Joel Moore, the former Great Britain captain and general manager of the Jaguars, said: "We will benefit hugely from linking with the rugby club. We've got a vision for the Jaguars' that ultimately means playing in the proposed European Baskethall League".

NEA Play-off semi-finets: Eastern Conference: Chicago 100 Adanta 97 (Chicago laof Jest-of-seven series 1-0). Western Conference: Utah 103 LA Laiers 101 (Ikah leed best-of-seven series 2-0).

Cycling

British hopes of a new international race to succeed the Milk Race died yesterto succeed me was read that yearday when a global television deal collapsed because of problems with insurance. A route based mainly in southern England had been agreed with police and local authorities, and 15 teams including Austrelia and the United States had accepted their places in the sk-day client Bittlet Proov Race which was due great British Poppy Race which was due to start on 18 August, British's last major international stage race, the Kellogi's Tour, ended in 1994, a year after the Milk Race which ran for 36 years.

PRICE WHICH RAIL ROUSE Second stage
(Montigny-on-Conteils; 184km) Leading
positions: 1.8 McEwer (Ans) Rabobank Air
25min 43sec; 2.0 Abdusperov (Uzb) Little;
2.1 Kinshuu (Est) Casmo; 4.1 Museuw (Bet)
Mone; 5.0 Vasseur (Fr) Carr, 6.N Jeksber (Fr)
Carlott, 7.0 Enges, 7. Panal Mutipala Satra et

WALES UNDER-18 SQUAD (v Morthern he-land Under-18, Racecourse Ground, Wroz-hans, Monday 17 May, 7.0): C Selsony Norwich), N Caustre Cardiff, S Davice (P-terborough), J Jenides (Boursenough), L Jenid-ins (Swertsee), J Jones (Lherpool), M Jones (Lects), C Llewellyn (Norwich), L Macuseri (Lherpool), M Pattisnore (Swerton), L Philips (Cardiff), S Roberts (Wrestam), D Thomas (Blackourn); S Thomas (Wrestam), D Welsh (Wredwan), D Williams (Liverpool). TUESDAY'S LATE RESSULTS: PA Carling Premilesthipt West Harn O Newcastle O: Wimbledon J Lewpool I. Jewson Eastern
Lengue Premier Division: Harwich 2 Warboys O; Windham 3 Great Yermouth 1. NorthWest Counties Lengue First Division: Darwen O Newcastle Town 2. Pontins Lengue
First Division: Burnisy 3 Bradford City 1.
Taird Division: Scuntinorpe 3 Chesterfield 2.
Bedgins Cup sean! Banks second leg: Anderiocht 3 Tielen 2 (egg: 4-2); Eandracht Asist
3 Germinat Exeren 3 (egg: 4-2); Eandracht Asist
3 Germinat Exeren 3 (egg: 4-3); Earen win
on away goals), Assistion Cop sessit-ficalis:
Austria Vienna 2 SV Satiburg 2 (egt, Austria
Vienna win 8-7 on persalies); Linzer ASK 0
Sturm win 8-7 on persalies); Linzer ASK 0
Sturm Grez 1. Earopean sender-21 chaun-TUESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: FA Carling Pre-

Sturm Graz 1. European under-21 cham-plorethip group nine (Idev): Ustaire 7 Ar-rogne U.

GOT PING LEADERBOARD: 1 A Sorenstam (Swe) 475.42; 2 L Devies (Eng) 460.82; 3 K Webb Jaus; 388.85; 4 K Robbins (US) 280.13; 5 L Neumann (Swe) 251.31; 6 D Papper (US) 230.90; 7 M McGann (US) 240.08; 8 J Geddee (US) 183.41; 9 M McJon (US) 174.00; 10 E (Rein (US) 159.71. Other Britists: 1.1 T Johnson 141.25; 15 A Nacholes 133.83; 22 L Hackney 165.48; 31. J Montey 91.78; 50 C Pierce 68.94; 62 L Feirclaugh 56.58; 64 K Marshell 55.19; 88 G Stewart 41.84.

ice hockey NHI. Stanley Cup Play-offs semi-finals: Eastern Conference: New York Rangers 3 New Jessey's (New York lead series 2-1), West-em Conference: Detroit 5 Anaherm 3 (De-troit lead series 3-0).

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS Medal rounds (Helsinici): Russis 1 United States 1; Casch Republic 5 Canada 3, (Tampere): Latvia 8 Germany C.

17TLEW000S: Troble chance: 23pts 565,945.55, 22 £615.00, 21 £47.10, 20 £10.30, Half-time: 22pts £560.15 max. Four draws £24.35, 10 homes £98.80. Five aways £2,406.

Buttings £2,406.

VERNONS: Treble chance: 23pts £42,336.50, 22 £328.65, 21 £67.15. Super shots: £32.25. Premier 10 £39.35.

BRITTENS: Treble chance: 22pts £267.27, 21 £6.00, 20 £0.90. Four chance £31.94.

Five aways £66.92. Eight flores £35.35.

ZETTERS: Treble Chance: 23pts £13,742.65, 22 £55.05, 21 £7.16, 20 £0.95. Eight aways: 23pts £180.20, 22 £2.55, 21 £0.50. Eight homes: £6.50. Four aways: £55.60. Super 7 £40.00.

Railying
TOUR OF CORSICA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
RALLY (Ajeccio) Leading finel positions (after 18 timed stagles): 1 C McRee (GB) Subaru Impreza 4hr 3.1mm 8sec; 2 C Sanz (Sp)
Fort Escort 4:31:16; 3 G Penzzi (Fr) Peugent 306
4:32:03; 5 P Listti (It) Subaru Impreza
4:32:07; 6 P Bugaishi (Fr) Ransult Megane
4:33:07; 6 P Bugaishi (Fr) Ransult Megane
4:39:36; 8 U Nitual (Ger) Misubhiri Lanoer
4:40:48; 9 A Schwarz (Ger) Ford Escort
4:41:43; 10 F Marieri (Fr) 4:44:55. Drivers'
world championship: 1 T Mainten (Fri) 20cs;
2 McRee 26; 3= Sairy 18, Letti 18; 5 Schwarz
11; 6 K Eritsson (Swe) 10; 7 Penzo 8= R
Borns (GB) 6, Freddy Lob (Bel) 8; 10 I Duncan (Fen) 4. Maughachurens: 1 Subaru 54
points; 2 Mitsubshi 36; 3 Ford 29.

An Australian rugby union player was beined from the sport for life last night after a disciplinary hearing found him guilty of punching a referee. Uml Kalsa, who played for Selmore, punched the referee in the face during a match against the North Steyne club last Sat-urday. The Belmore club was suspended from the Sydney suburban competition for the rest of the season. The flanker Pete Glanville was elected Gloucester's new captain by his team-mans at Kingsholm last night. The 25-year-old, who has played 104 first-team-games for the club, succeeds Dave Sims, the England A forward.

The world No 1, Martina Hingis, has pulled out of the German Open in Berlin next week. An operation on the Swiss player's trace could also force her out of the French Open, starting on 26 May. OTHE PRINCH UPEN, SERTING ON 20 MRW.
GERMAN OPEN MEN'S TOURSWAREHT (Hamburg) Singles, first round: C Costs (Sq) br D Eaver (Sar) 6-4 6-4; O Gross (Sed br K Assmri Mort
6-4 6-4; A Beassangel (Sp) br A Breston (F) 6-2
6-4; R Fromberg Wust br G Humen (Bri 7-6 6-3;
A Radulescu (Carl br I Nydahl (Swe) 4-6 7-6 7-5;
F Mantilla (Sp) br M Lesson (Swe) 6-7 6-4 6-3;
M Gustalson (Swe) br C Profine (F) 6-4 1-6 6-3;
R Camitter (Sp) br M Lesson (Swe) 4-6 7-6 M Custoffson (Swe) bit C Proline (Fr) 6-4 1-6 6-3; R Carretiero (Sp.) bit J Kroppschild (Ger) 4-6 6-3 6-3; C Ruud Norwey bit M Telestrom, Slew) 6-1 4-6 6-3; A Martin (Sp.) bit F Dennati (Bel) 3-6 7-8 7-6; A Martin (Sp.) bit P Dennati (Bel) 3-6 7-8 7-6; A Contraja (Sp.) bit P Dennati (Bel) 6-1 8-3; P Hosthus (Heit) bit H Creativern (Ser) 6-4 8-4; J Tazenge (US) bit H Custry (ug) 6-3 6-1; A Mechadev (Ukr) bit M Knowles (Bah) 7-5 4-8 6-0; J Dez, (Sp.) bit M Roser (Swr) 6-4 6-2; F Claimet Sp.) bit M AG Goot (Sp.) 7-5 6-4; S Schollen (Neth) J Sanchez (Sp.) 6-4 6-2. Second stand: These (Sp.) bit M Agustrison (Swe) 6-1 6-1; B Bocker (Ger) bit M Kerler (Ger) 7-5 8-2; F Martiso (Sp.) bit R Carretero (Sp.) 6-1 6-1; M Rose (Chile) bit R Carretero (Sp.) 6-1 6-1; M Rose (Chile) bit R Carretero (Sp.) 6-1 6-1; M Rose (Chile) bit C Ruud Norwey 6-1 7-5.

C HALLEN POPINEY OF THE TAILEN POPEN WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT (Rome) Singles, second round: E Lidonyssum (Rus) is I. Nederal (Lat. 6-3 6-3; P. Liberal (Inc. 6-3 6-3; P. Liberal (Inc. 6-3 6-3; P. Liberal (Inc. 6-3); P. Chryoler (Swd) at 3 Estud (Fr) 7-6 6-0; P. Schryoler (Swd) at 3 Estud (Fr) 7-6 6-0; P. Schryoler (Swd) at 3 Estud (Fr) 7-6 6-0; P. Schryoler (Swd)

bt Flabat (Arg) 6-4 6-3.

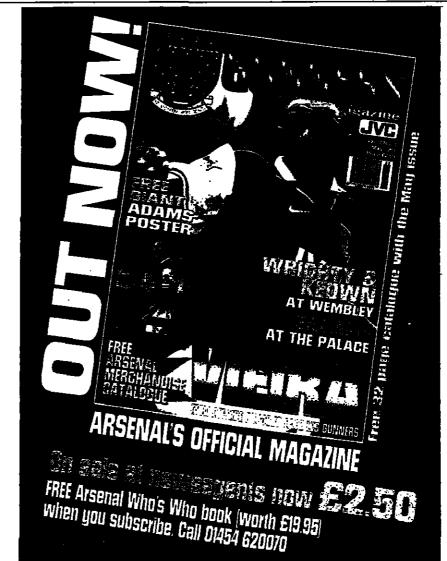
AMERICA'S RED CLAY CHAMPIONSHIP (Coral Springs, Cash) Singles, first round: J Bjorkman (Swe) bt M Zaboleta (Arg) 6-3 6-2; J Stottenberg (Ava) bt S Sanchez (Sp) 6-3 6-6; J Stottenberg (Ava) bt C S Lariesu (Cas) 6-1 6-4; M Norman (Swe) bt C Reous F1 6-3 3-6 6-1; S Campbell (US) bt V Spadee (US) 6-4 7-6; J Van Herck (Be) bt U S Deigado (Par) 7-6 6-3; D Rach (US) bt N Person (Ven) 6-3 8-4; D Witz (US) bt K Carlson (Den) 6-4 8-2.

FED CLIP Europe/Africa group two (Astalys, Darlegy: Pool A: Britain bt Estorie 3-0 (GB names first: C Wood bt L Sourierik 6-3 6-0, S Smith bt H Hoter 6-3 6-4, J Putitin and L Woodrotte bt Sourierik and Hoter 6-0 6-1). Sunrafik and Holter 6-0 6-1).

LTA SPRINKS SATIELLITE (Jue-on-Solenis) First roanch Merc S Barron (iff) bt B Cowan (GB) 7-6 6-2; D Rodet (Merc) bt P Hend (GB) 6-3 6-1; L Milligen (GB) bt N Wheel (GB) 6-1 6-0; A Belobrajdic (Aus) bt N Coutselot (Fr) 3-6 6-2 6-1; I Namuller (Aus) bt D Wheel (GB) 6-0 8-2; R Gibert (Fr) bt J Interdenger (Aut) 6-4 6-2; M Book (Neith) bt M Machagan (GB) 6-7 7-8-8-3; J Deligado (GB) bt P Languardt (Den) 6-2 6-3; Wommers Wardt (GB) bt D Maccolino (App 6-1 6-2; K Wommers) Wardt (GB) bt A Tortoff (GB) 7-5 6-0; L Ahl (GB) tt L Perkins (GB) 6-2 4-6 6-4.

Jordan."

points entering the fourth quarter as the Bulls outscored Atlanta 38-20 in the third quarter. Chicago, who were coming off a lengthy lay-off after sweep-ing the Washington Bullets in



Britain's No 1 tennis player, page 26

United prepare for an extended reign.

GLENN MOORE

Football Correspondent

At the dawn of the century, with the Footbali League still in its infancy, it must have seemed Aston Villa would never be toppled. In 1900 Villa won their fourth title in five seasons, and their fifth in seven, with a record points score. They were a power in the land, well supported and replete with internationals. A century of promise stretched ahead of them. Yet in 86 seasons

So there is hope yet for the challengers to Manchester United who on Wednesday secured their fourth title in five have bought the title. United are

since they have won just two fur-

seasons. Nothing, in this game,

United do, however, seem ikely to maintain their hegemony longer than Villa managed. Graeme Souness, who won five championship medals in six years with Liverpool, said: "To win four out of five is an incredible achievement. The frightening thing is that given their youth and their economic power things are going to be their way for the fore-

secable future." Maybe. United have been resilient but not invincible - their 6-3 defeat to Souness' Southampton side was probably the nadir of a season in which they also lost 5-0 to Newcastle and slipped out of the top five for the first time since 1992. Nor can it be said that they

clubs not to buy during the sea-son - Wimbledon are the other - and of their five summer signings (for £6.7m) only the two Norwegians, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and Ronny Johnsen, have made significant contributions. Both are young, in keeping

one of only two Premiership

with Ferguson's policy of long-term building. While Eric Cantona has shown signs of decline, and the defence has wobbled of late, there is no reason to think that United will not be dominant for seasons to come. Their reserves, A and B teams have also won their respective titles.

Can this sustained supremacy be good for the game? One would think not. Unlike this month's other red triumph United's success was not greetManageriai

roll of honour

Kenny Delglish (Liverpool & Blackbort): 1986 (L), 1988 (L), 1990 (L), 1995 (B).

phoria. Outside Upton Park on Tuesday West Ham and Newcastle supporters were buying T-shirts marked 'Better dead than red - I hate Man Utd'. Not that Liverpool, Arsenal or Newcastle would have been greeted with anything othchange'. The prospect of the football world feeling as rejuvenated as the political one had last week went when Kevin Keegan left Tyneside.

Yet, since Keegan departed, Manchester United have regained their status as the Premiership's most cavalier team. They have outscored all their rivals, as they did last season, and frequently done so in style.

This positive approach is good for the game as is Ferguson's faith in his young players and their bearing, on and off the pitch. The image of United as a team of snarling whingers is outdated, even the manager has mellowed to an extent. Yet the club could do more. To begin with they could set an

example by reducing admis-

Alex Ferguson's changing fortunes 1986-91

183 76 55 52 256 194 282 Average points per game: 1.54 1991-97

242 144 67 31 445 211 489 Average points per game: 2.06 sion prices rather than raising them as is planned. There is enough revenue from television

and sponsorship to subsidise the paying speciator (or reduce the profit made from him or her). This would not be purely altruistic. As ticket prices have risen, the audience demographic has changed. The theatre of dreams too often sounds like a

theatre these days. Apart from

feel unwanted by the club, the speciators speciate, rather than participate. The team is expected to rouse them not the other way around. It is no coincidence that, after long unbeaten home runs in Europe and the Premiership, United have lost

five home games this season. United could also take a lead in helping smaller clubs maintain the unique structure of the English game. Ferguson, having begun his managerial ca-reer at East Stirling, knows the value of the smaller clubs and he regularly loans players out to them for experience - as with

David Beckham at Preston. There are limits - United can hardly play a fundraising testimonial at every lower League ground. They can put their serve something of the transfer system and to devoting a large cut of the Premiersi television deal towards smaller clubs rebuild grounds and pay the would be more helpful. threatening to go it pay-per-view, and thus weal ening the strength of the body politic's bargaining power, as Fergusor did recently in a fit of pique at the Premiership's refusal to extend the season Sharing their expertise in marketing and administration

would not go amiss either. There is one other service United can do the English game. That is to mark its reviva by winning the European Champions Cup. Next year, maybe next year.

Premiership under fire from Blatter

The Premiership came under in- a threat to the game. There are sponded to Blatter's comments creased pressure vesterday to reduce the number of clubs in the top division when Sepp Blatter, the general secretary of Fifa, the game's international governing body, criticised the number of games being played.

Fifa's European counterpart, Uefa, have shown their displeasure at the 20-club Premiership by denying next season's Coca-Cola Cup winners a Uefa Cup place. Uefa, looking to extend the scope of the Champions League still further, say that top divisions should contain no more than 18 clubs, a proposal originally adopted by Premiership chairmen but now seemingly ignored. And Blatter went a stage further by urging a further re-

Blatter, speaking in Zurich, picked out the Premiership and Spain's Premier Liga. "Both of them are too big," he said. "The Premiership has 20 teams and the Spanish First Division has 22 teams. A much more sensible figure would be 16 teams."

Blatter again criticised television's growing role in the In some countries you have a big match on television every day. It is too much and is simply too many matches. Players do not have time to recover." he said.

Blatter, who effectively ruled himself out of the running to replace João Havelange as the Fifa president when the Brazilian stands down next year, revealed there was likely to be a compromise with the French authorities over the issue of perimeter fences at next summer's World Cup finals.

Fifa have bitterly opposed the fences, insisting they create the wrong image for the sport, with Blatter stating publicly: "Fences are for animals not football fans." The French Government has so far said security concerns means the fences will stay, but Blatter said: 'I think you will see no fences along the sidelines and fencing behind the goals will be much lower.

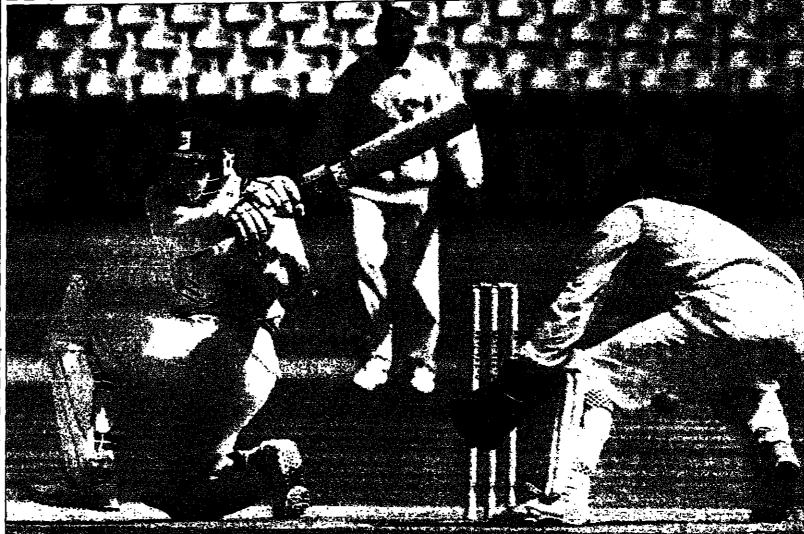
"When we drew up the regulation for the 1998 World Cup finals we did not include the banning of fences," he said. "That was an oversight. As there were no fences in the United States finals we did not think about it. But in future any country wanting to host the finals will have to agree not to put up fences." The Premier League reby pointing out the Premiership was smaller now than it had originally been. Their

spokesman, Mike Lee, said: The Premiership has been cut from 22 to 20 clubs. At this stage in our development we believe that strikes the right balance.

But although the loss of the Coca-Cola Cup Uefa place actually strengthens the Premiership's hand as the extra place will be awarded on the basis of League position. Lee did not rule out the possibility of a future cut to the Uefa "model" size of 18 clubs.

"Decisions on the size of domestic leagues are a matter for the leagues' governing bodies," he said. "There is also an ongoing debate on this issue which our clubs will participate in during the years ahead." Bayern Munich's co-trainer,

Klaus Augenthaler, has signed a two-year contract with the Austrian First Division club Casino Graz. Augenthaler, 39, was presented by Casino Graz yesterday as successor to the club's present coach, August Starek. He will take up the post next season. Casino Graz are currently lying sixth in the Austrian league championship standings.



Mark Ramprakash employs the sweep as he cruises to his century at Lord's yesterday

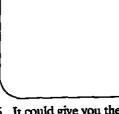
THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

- It's enough to make one
- leave home (10) 8 Skilled worker - and mate, You might say (9)
- Straight in the bull (4) 10 Stay in hall, rest, eschewing University (6)
- 11 He's away, high on Ec-stasy, in Lincoln (8) 13 One engaged in housework? (6)
- 14 Instrument for disc, note, rotating (8) 17 Carpet with handsome cut I fitted (8)

19 Merchant takes Queen

- on board (6) 21 Tragedy causing girl's wretched tears (8)
- 23 Judge settles point in retrospect (6) 25 Score extra (4) 26 Draw drink, measure of
- mild that's in condition 27 Faculty ensuring male remains aware (10)
 - DOWN
- Detached is taken off the market? (9) Dignitary, elevated Eng-
- lish bishop (4) One blend, very smoky, made one peer (8) Cannon's no good as a
- weapon (5) Denounced (without name) as bent (7)





- 6 It could give you the runs! (10)
- 7 Rifle tops of marijuana with addict (6)
- 12 Agency promoting auditions? (3-7)
- 15 To fail to respond to alarm proves Lee's blot-
- 16 He values fool's gold around SE (8) 18 Import hash? Then
- you'll get time (7) 20 Play, in general, introducing 'Method' (6) 22 One keeps up British
- address (5) 24 Change jar, short of litre? (4)

Cricket

DEREK PRINGLE reports from Lord's Middlesex 337-5 v Sussex

Lord's atop the Mound stand scoreboard. He has not gone far, but if the aspect is different, the gaze, despite being broken by a Mark Ramprakash century, is as impenetrable and uncritical as ever. Just as well considering the limp display by most of the Sus-

up 337 for 5 by the close. These days a Mark Ram- to have been developed through prakash century usually brings controlling the turmoil and knock and an injury in the that grows ever more distant

sex bowlers as Middlesex rattled

about two responses. From his supporters, comes the clarion call for another chance to play for England, while from his critics the resounding snort that they have seen it all before, and that the temperamental flaws that obviously exist, run too deep to be exposed by county opposition. This was his 35th first-class century. Tellingly, perhaps, 32 of

them have been for Middlesex. And yet he appears to improve year upon year and this was his second century in successive innings having already notched one up as captain of the Rest at Edgbaston two weeks ago. It is a process that appears

least half appeared to be parttime - in an attempt to justify their decision to put Middlesex into bat on a green-tinged pitch. Sussex could counter that

Ramprakash in control with a century

the technique that has long

In fact had Ramprakash al-

ready been in Michael Ather-

ton's plans for the summer, it

would have been difficult to see

how he could have summoned

up the desire he did yesterday

against Sussex. The county's re-

cent tumult being matched by

a confusion on the pitch that

saw them use nine bowlers - at

been the envy of his peers.

judgements that come from morning session to their fast bowler Vasbert Drakes it was within, rather than fine-tuning the correct decision. Certainly Paul Weekes, who was dropped at second slip without scoring, did not last long, while Jacques Kallis, Middlesex's overseas signing from South Africa, lazily drove to cover after blunting

the opening salvo. Gatting, in his dotage as a player but newly reborn as a selector, did not last long either, tamely chopping on to Amer Khan, a leg-spinner he will have faced a thousand times in the nets at the Nursery End. Gatting needs nine more firstclass hundreds to notch up a apart from Ramprakash's century of centuries a feat

for this great club setvan However, by the time Ja Pooley had lost his mid stump playing back to he Robinson, Ramprakask in well entrenched and striking the ball with smooth and powerful assurance, bringing up his 1000

just before tea. Having dominated play un til that point, he then decided to retrench, allowing Keith Brown to take control with a series of snappy cut shots. The pair had added 136 in 39 overs when Ramprakash edged one of Rajesh Rao's dolly mixtures to Peter Moores down the leg 'side. Ignominy does not come any better than that.

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Walkinshaw moves to calm Hill's frustration

Motor racing DERICK ALLSOP

reports from Monte Carlo

Contrasting moods, contrasting aspirations. Heinz-Harald Frentzen, suddenly a Formula One race winner and suddenly relaxed and oozing confidence in anticipation of Sunday's

Monaco Grand Prix. Damon Hill, the man he replaced at Williams-Renault has scant hope of success here, while his team, Arrows-Yamaha, are anxiously quelling

any suggestion of a rift.
Hill's fourth fruitless race at Imola 12 days ago caused him to demand the team "get their act together" and reiterate his determination to secure a competitive car for next year, be it at Arrows or elsewhere.

Tom Walkinshaw, the Arrows supremo, has already taken steps to improve matters by opening negotiations for a different engine partner and employing the renowned designer John Barnard to create a more competitive car. Now Walkinshaw offers words of comfort, too.

He said: "We knew all along that it wouldn't happen overnight and Damon knew that. We've talked about the situation with Damon and he un-

derstands. We have no problem with Damon and he knows we're all determined to get things right. We're just as angry and frustrated as he is. We don't like it either when he starts at the back. But if Damon wasn't disappointed, I would be

disappointed in him.
"There is always a danger he will go at the end of the season, but it's too early to talk about that. He doesn't need me to tell him to keep calm. He has to keep focused. If the circumstances are right, it's still possible for him to win a race this year.

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Frentzen, who held off him this race is a break. He had Michael Schumacher's Ferrari to register his maiden Formula One victory at Imola, senses the opportunity to challenge his team-mate, Jacques Villeneuve. for the championship and expects the competition to be evident here this weekend.

"After the win I am more relaxed and confident, and can concentrate on my job and en-joy the racing," the German said. "Jacques has done a great development job and got stronger and stronger, a lot stronger than last year. For

Frentzen, who likens racing here to "bobsleighing in a tunnel", was also promised a strong challenge from Schumacher by Ferrari's team director. Jean

not such a good race last year

and has worked hard for this.

Michael will also be very strong in qualifying so I think it will be

exciting.

"I believe we will be quits competitive," Toda said "Michael is very strong and was frustrated after crashing so early in the race last year Williams are still better than us; especially in qualifying, but the championship is open and we hope to be at their level by the middle of the season."...

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